METRO / A19
NBI frees Louie Gonzalez based on court order

WORLD / A22
3 Americans win Nobel Prize for medicine

SPORTS / A16
Junior Archers force Game 3 with Eaglets

ACROSS / A15
Batanes appeals for food aid

DTI gets death threats; price control stays

By Christine V. Bagamaspad and Allison W. Lopez

THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING extending "indefinitely" the price ceiling on basic commodities in the wake of death threats against Trade Secretary Peter Favila and an attack on the vehicle of another official of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Since the price ceiling was imposed, Favila said he had received death threats

DTI GETS As

It took 'Ondoy' to fix clogged Palace sewers

By TJ Burgonio

IT TOOK THE DELUGE of Sept. 26 to (semi-poetically) force President Malacañang-dwellers out of bible-clutching.

And she has ordered

IT TOOK A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, October 7, 2009 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 181 P10

Killer-rapist to Spain; victims' pa hits gov't

'Why the haste? Where is justice?'

By Norman Bordadora

ONE OF SEVEN MEN CONVICTED OF RAPING and killing two sisters in Cebu City in 1997 has been removed from the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa City and flown to presumably better prison conditions at the Centro Penitenciario in Spain.

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera announced at a news conference that Francisco "Paco" Larrañaga, 55, left the country escorted by Spanish Interpol agents yesterday morning. His departure was made possible under the RP-Spain Transfer of Sentenced Persons Agreement.

Devanadera said Larrañaga—a great grandson of President Sergio Osmeña Sr. who was convicted in 1999 along with six others of the abduction, rape and murder of Jacqueline and Marijoe Chiong—still had to serve 28 years of his 40-year sentence at the prison in Madrid.

"He'd be 61 by [the end of his sentence]," she said of the Spanish-Filipino convict who had already served 12 years.

Reached by phone yesterday afternoon in Cebu and informed of Larrañaga's departure, the sisters' father said the convict's transfer to the Spanish prison was "dubious."

"What's happening with our government? They did not follow the procedure. Where is justice?" Dionisio Chiong said.

He said his family had filed at the Cebu Regional Trial Court an opposition to a motion such

KILLER-RAPIST A6

TO A "FRIENDLY CLIME" Rape convict Paco Larrañaga clears the prodeparture area at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport preparatory to his Tuesday flight to Spain. Above, on May 16, 1999, Larrañaga in chains sits on the deck of the MV Princess of the World on his way from Cebu to the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa.

Blast from past: 'Pepeng' back, lingers in N. Luzon

By Alcuin Papa

TROPICAL STORM "PEPENG" HEADed back toward northern Luzon yesterday for a second whammy.

After tarrying for the past two days in the South China Sea off northwestern Luzon, the storm began moving slowly back to areas it had slammed when it swept ashore from the Pacific Saturday, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa).

The storm was reported to hit Ilocos Norte late night, packing peak winds of 185 kilometers and gustiness up to 220 kph, said Pagasa Director Prisco Nilo.

Nilo said northwestern Luzon, including Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and Abra, would experience heavy rains for six hours.

Nilo said Pepeng was forecast to remain in the area for the next three days and weaken before heading out again into the South China Sea toward Vietnam.

"When a tropical cyclone is overland, it has a tendency to weaken since there is friction with land mass," he explained.

Signal No. 3 was raised over Batanes, northern Cagayan, Babuyan and Calayan Islands, Apayao, Ilocos Norte, Abra and Ilocos Sur, where strong rains and winds were predicted.

Nilo said the winds and rain would not be as strong as when Pepeng entered the eastern coast of Cagayan as a

BLAST A6

Shoppers' paradise: All on sale in US

NEW YORK—THERE HAS NEVER been a better time to be a consumer. America is on sale.

The Great Recession has caused massive job losses and hardship for millions, but it has also fostered a shoppers' paradise. Anyone who still has the means to spend can find a bonanza of deals.

Prices on everything from clothes to coffee to cat food are dropping, sometimes more than they have in half a century.

Items rarely discounted—like Tiffany engagement rings—are now. The two biggest purchases most people make—homes and cars—are selling at steep price reductions.

"This is the new normal," says Don

SHOPPING A 10

SHOWTIME A child whiles away the hours playing inside the evacuation center at Concepcion Elementary School in Marikina City. Here, she gets an x-ray of rubber boots. NINO JESUS ORBETA

Guinsaugon gives back big time

By Jurel Arriola, Jeyanthi Nagasa, Terra Quiamanda and Jorene Aning

TO RETURN A FAVOR THEIR TOWN received during a time of need, members of St. Bernard municipal disaster and coordinating council went to Manila to bring and distribute relief items to victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

"It's just appropriate for us to pursue the cause just like what the whole world did for us during the 2006 Guinsaugon Tragedy," said Jane Asuncion, executive assistant of St. Bernard Mayor Rico Rontoyo.

Asuncion said the team, headed by the mayor, would coordinate relief efforts with the staff of Senatorial Aspirant and Capacities of Communities and Local Governments for Resilience to Disaster (Accord) at Rizal province.

Accord, a project of the European Commission's humanitarian aid department and the Corporate Network for Disaster Response, aims to help communities increase their capacity to reduce

GUINSAUGON A11

Post-'Ondoy' bestseller: Air mattresses

By Dorris C. Dumlao and DJ Yap

GUESS WHICH PIECE OF "SURVIVAL gear" suddenly became in demand after Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

Filipinos with painful lessons learned from the recent flash floods have apparently added one unusual item to their shopping list of emergency supplies: Inflatable beds.

Not a few residents of Metro Manila and other affected areas used air mattresses in rafts to save themselves

POST-'ONDOY' A6

BED WEATHER Residents stay dry using an air mattress to negotiate a flooded street in Karangalan Village, Cainta, Rizal, on Sept. 27. Sales of inflatable beds have surged in Metro Manila stores. Sales are up 400 percent at SM's hardware chain. ERIK DE CASTRO

4 presidential bets grilled by local gov't execs

By Michael Lim Ubac

AMID THE GOVERNMENT'S SLOW and inadequate response to the devastation wrought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy," local officials yesterday pushed for greater fiscal autonomy and more discretionary powers that could clip Malacañang's powers.

In a forum dubbed "Face to Face: 100 Local Government Champions versus Four Presidential Contenders" at the Asian Institute of Management, local chief executives grilled four presidential

4 PRESIDENTIAL A2

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

EZ2
19 9 21 14 22 4

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
5 6 3
3 1 7
4 5 9

6/42 LUZ-VIS-MIN
3 17 20 27 32 35
₱19,557,586.80

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
3 5 23 31 35 37
₱28,142,128.80

NO BASKETBALL, GAME The basketball court at Philippine Sports Arena (formerly Ultra) is flooded with evacuees who fled high waters in Marikina and Pasig cities.

₱682M earmarked for farm damage

By Nico T. Dicksondra

AS DAMAGE FROM TROPICAL STORM "ONDOY" and Typhoon "Pepeng" climb to almost P8 billion, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said yesterday it would spend at least P682 million to help farmers mend their farms and repair damaged irrigation facilities.

Almost 35,000 hectares of rice fields in Luzon were mowed down by Pepeng's hurricane-force winds, many of them almost ready for harvest.

The agriculture department's Central Azucena Cruzate chief, Marina B. Bernardo, said the rice sector will get enrolled in hybrid seeds, fertilizer and other forms of assistance totaling ₱1,300 per hectare.

With 34,017 hectares ravaged by both Ondoy and Pepeng, aid for the rice sector alone would amount to almost ₱1 billion.

Affected corn farmers will also get seed subsidies and pesticide worth a combined ₱2,240 per hectare or some P1.6 million for about 1,000 hectares of corn lands.

Seeds for replanting areas with damaged high-value commercial crops (HVCC), as well as other inputs, was allocated a budget of ₱3,000 per hectare or ₱6.5 million in aid for about 1,322 hectares.

The department will also spend ₱481 million corn dender into months for emergency repairs to damaged irrigation facilities.

This would bring the total farm aid disclosed to ₱682 million.

A still undisclosed amount will also be spent on restocking dragged fish farms in Central Luzon. Some 5,000 tilapia fingerlings and bangus fries will be provided, said Bernardo.

About ₱2,500 per hectare will be spent for tilapia fish-pond (at 50 centavos per fingerling) and ₱1,790 per hectare for bangus farms (at 35 centavos per fry).

As an emergency of 95,105 per hectare for 8,306 hectares of damaged fishery areas, earmarking could reach ₱17.7 million.

The DA also said it would set aside funds for drugs and biologics.

Broiler chicks

The DA also plans to give three broiler chicks for fattening worth ₱560 to affected families.

As of press time, the DA had been unable to say how many families will get the freebies.

About 87% (2,750 families) were affected by Ondoy and Pepeng according to data from the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

Billions of pesos worth of crops in the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Bicol and Cordillera regions were damaged by Pepeng and Ondoy, according to the DA.

The DA estimated a loss of 63,609 metric tons (MT) of palay from 74,373 hectares of agricultural land in those regions. Earlier, about 305,380 MT of palay were lost due to Ondoy.

Total rice damage would represent up to 3.6 percent of the national rice target this year.

In corn crops, DA estimates 1,442 MT of corn grains lost from 3,066 hectares affected by Pepeng. Corn lost to Ondoy was placed at 2,509 MT.

In high value crops, 4,702 MT—mostly vegetables and bananas—were lost from 1,231 hectares affected by Pepeng. Damage from Ondoy was even more massive.

Fishery reports

Damage to fisheries so far included only reports from Central Luzon. About 8,336 hectares of fishponds (milkfish, tilapia, prawns), fish cages and seaweed farms were washed out.

In the livestock and poultry sector, reports from Central Luzon and the southern Tagalog region estimated the death or loss of about 33,350 head of livestock (cattle, carabaos, horses, swine and sheep) and 61,221 head of poultry.

Damage reports from other regions continued to come into the DA offices.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said on the sidelines of a Congressional budget hearing the other day that the country's estimated three- to four-percent growth in rice production for 2009 might be halved because of the damage to agriculture.

Reduced GDP

Ardeny Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Augusto B. Santos said at a recent Cabinet meeting that the impact of the floods alone "could reduce real GDP (gross domestic product) growth this year by at least [0.60] percentage points."

Meanwhile, Kaakbayan party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano called for a moratorium on rent, gamin fees, land rent and loan payments by farmers affected by the recent disasters.

He also suggested that any financial aid to the farmers should be routed through farmer organizations instead of local government officials.

Ondoy and Pepeng left hundreds with almost nothing, the representative of the peasant and workers sector said.

Hardest hit

"The Filipino peasants are among the hardest hit by the calamity. They are not only mired in mud, they are mired in debt and poverty," Mariano said in a statement.

The funds should be routed through "genuine peasant organizations and cooperatives" instead of local government officials and congressmen, he said.

"Unlike the infamous multi-billion pork barrel fund scam that went through bureaucratic corruption and nonexistent NGOs, genuine farmers' organizations and cooperatives are in a better position to extend the benefits of the funds even to nonmembers," he said.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo, in a separate statement, said the ₱1.2 billion intelligence fund of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro should be diverted to relief operations. With a report by Leila B. Salaverria

Storm damage to gov't hospitals hits ₱670M

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

AT LEAST 15 MAJOR GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS have sustained damage estimated to reach at least ₱670 million due to the killer floods wrought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" according to the Department of Health (DOH).

The Amang Rodriguez Medical Center along Sumulong Highway in Marikina City, where basement were completely submerged in floodwaters, reported the biggest damage estimated at ₱380 million in equipment and infrastructure.

Another hospital in Marikina, the Quirino Memorial Medical Center, sustained damage estimated at ₱7.8 million.

The DOH still has to receive reports on the extent of the damage suffered by private hospitals and those run by local government units.

But in the floods, hospital staff rushed to evacuate patients as higher floors, leaving vital medical equipment and supplies behind. They also had to cope with loss of electric power for at least a day.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III earlier said the DOH hoped to tap the national government's calamity fund to rehabilitate the damaged hospitals, but other agencies also want to tap the calamity fund for damaged public infrastructure and to salvage agricultural areas.

According to the DOH, among the major public hospitals damaged were the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong City which reported damage of ₱75 million; Tondo Medical Center, Manila, ₱58.16 million; DOH Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Drug Addiction in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, ₱10.7 million;

East Avenue Medical Center, ₱23.3 million; Rizal Medical Center, Pasig City, ₱23.2 million; San Lazaro Hospital, Manila, ₱17 million; Jose Rebello Memorial Hospital, ₱12 million; San Lorenzo Ruiz Hospital in Imus, Cavite, ₱10.93 million; Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, ₱5 million; Valenzuela Medical Center, ₱4.25 million; National Children's Hospital, ₱3.2 million; Las Piñas General Hospital and Satellite Trauma Center, ₱1.35 million; and Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital in Caloocan City, ₱1.03 million.

In the headquarters of the National Nutrition Council in Taguig, a DOH agency, also sustained damage estimated at ₱12 million.

Senate honors 'Ondoy' heroes who died

FOR THEIR HEROISM, THE SENATE HONored three men who perished while risking their lives to save others during the onslaught of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" late last month.

The Senate adopted Monday night resolutions commending the "exemplary heroism" exhibited by Pfc. Vesserio Arebero and Cpl. Adriano Regua of the Philippine Army, and of Mechanic Magallanes.

They were cited for their "bold and selfless act" of bringing to safety hundreds of residents affected by the latest calamity that hit most of Luzon.

Senate Resolutions 1309 and 1310 were authored by Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada.

Arebero, who belonged to Alpha Company of the 16th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army, was able to rescue 20 residents trapped by floodwaters in Barangay Tuntun, Pinet, Laguna, before being swept away by the strong current.

Regua died in a rescue operation with the Citizen's Armed Force Geographical Unit (Cafgu) and successfully brought to safety 200 residents of Mahilao, Laguna. But Regua and some of his team members were carried away by the current. Their bodies were recovered in Barangay Sinagtala, Laguna.

Most poignant was the case of 18-year-old Magallanes who carried his family and 30 others who were threatened by the floodwaters from drowning. He Magallanes himself later drowned. Christine O. Avendaño

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ASCORBIC ACID 500mg tab	3.85	1.60
CARBOCISTEINE 500mg cap	10.20	2.50
LOPERAMIDE 2mg cap	14.00	1.30
MEFENAMIC ACID 500mg cap	27.75	1.80
METFORMIN 500mg tab	11.00	1.70
METOPROLOL 50mg tab	14.50	2.60
PARACETAMOL 500mg tab	2.90	0.60

- William D. Torres, Ph.D.
Consultant
(Former BFAD Director)

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House seeks higher tax on text

DESPITE STRONG OPPOSITION FROM mobile phone users, Congress is proposing an eight-centavo tax on text messages and to bring the billions of pesos in damage wrought by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng" to justify the new tax.

Although the proposed tax is three centavos higher than the five-centavo text tax earlier proposed, Tawasa Sur Rep. Eric Singson and other pro-text tax representatives moved during the House ways and means committee hearing yesterday to sell not the tax hike by pegging the cost of each text message at 80 centavos from the current one peso.

But Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño said the new proposal was more "bare-faced" than the original one because it would increase both the cost of text messages as well as the tax on it.

Casiño pointed out that the average cost of a text message, including the basket persms or unlimited text messaging, was only 23 centavos each.

"The ways and means committees is like a headless chicken trying to impose new taxes on the public without thinking. The proposal is so ridiculous it makes one ask: What's the next game plan? What do they really want? It has probably something to do with the elections," he said.

Bohusan party-list Rep. Raymund Palatino warned to have the proposed tax on text archived in order to stop any attempt by lawmakers to burden Filipinos with higher taxes on what has been their most popular and least costly means of communication.

The ways and means committee had previously approved the five-centavo text tax only to bring it back in the committee due to strong opposition from the public.

Palatino said the rule played by new rumors in the house operations when Ondoy inundated Metro Manila and neighboring provinces should make a strong case against a text tax. —Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Canonization rites start for Arroyo aunt

THE FORMAL START TODAY OF THE cause for canonization of Mother Rosario Arroyo de la Visitación, founder of the Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary of the Philippines, will have a VIP guest.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is set to attend the Mass to be officiated by Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo on St. Anne's Parish in Iloilo, Iloilo.

Mother Rosario was the great-grand-aunt of **Jose Miguel Arroyo, the President's husband.**

In his edict issued on July 28, started the process of canonization for Mother Rosario, Lagdameo called upon "any and all who may have knowledge of anything regarding the cause of canonization of the Servant of God to bring such documents, materials or information to my attention."

In the Catholic Church, canonization is the conferring of the status of a saint on a dead person. It is preceded by beatification by which the Church permits the veneration of the person variously as Blessed, as evidence of the person's exceptional virtue and miracles regarded as authentic. The process of canonization is completed after satisfactory evidence of further miracles.

Mother Rosario was born Maria Rosario del Rosario Arroyo in Iloilo to a wealthy and pious couple, Ignacio Arroyo and Maria Paula. She was the **only daughter among** three children. She joined the religious life on Jan. 3, 1914, entering the Beaterio de Sta. Catalina in Manila. She taught at the Beaterio and later in Cotgrove, Pangasinan.

Lagdameo described Mother Rosario as "an example of the observance of the vows, the Holy Rule and community life."

"She is clearly remembered for virtues of purity and innocence, deep simplicity and profound humility, ardent love for the poor, the sick and the needy," he said. —Christine F. Esguerra

EDSA PEACE ACHIMES Filipinos joined the international community in marching for peace Tuesday around Manila.

Soldiers, students, officials march in Manila for peace

By Philip C. Tubeza

INTERNATIONAL PEACE ADVOCATES yesterday joined soldiers and other Filipinos in the streets of Manila to press for world peace and nuclear disarmament.

Led by a brass band, more than 2,000 students, soldiers from the Philippine military, government officials and NGO workers joined the colorful World March for Peace and Nonviolence in Malate.

"The purpose of the march is to create awareness and consensus for peace and nonviolence because this is a very important issue... It's all for nonviolence," said Gemma Sicam, spokesperson for the Philippine leg of the march.

Sicam said that around 3,000 groups around the world were holding daily marches, which began on Oct. 2, the United Nations International Day of Non-Violence, and culminate on Gandhi's 140th birthday. Marches will be held in different countries until Jan. 2.

The movement aims to stop countries from building up nuclear arms and to convince them to agree to avoid using war as a means to resolve conflicts.

Sicam said Marco Inglesias said the movement was more than the making, with the world march kicking off in Auckland, New Zealand. He said organizers were impressed by the response from Filipinos.

"It was impressive, wonderful. We did not expect this," Inglesia said.

He said that from the time they walked out of the airport on Monday, there were a lot of "people waiting for us... It was something unexpected for us. It was not the same in New Zealand or Australia."

Inglesia said the movement wanted to spur world peace, beginning with individual nonviolent commitments.

"What we propose is starting from ourselves, acting in a nonviolent way. For us, violence is not just physical violence, it is religious violence, economic violence, sexual violence. Physical violence is just one of them," he said.

2 found dead in shabu lab

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, BULACAN—Two men believed to be Chinese nationals were found dead when police and soldiers raided a clandestine methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) laboratory in a remote village in San Miguel Monday night.

Senior Supt. Ebenhaezer Ramos, acting Bulacan police director, said three other men, also reportedly Chinese nationals, were arrested during the raid conducted at 7 p.m. by the police, agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and members of the 81st Scout Ranger Regiment based in San Miguel.

Ramos said the two men, whose bodies were in an advanced state of decomposition, were found in an underground chamber of a ruined house in Sitio Biga, Barangay Cabungaan.

Authorities had asked the soldiers and police to check out the area after they noticed fumes coming out of the house and the smells of chemicals.

Ramos said the raiding team could not immediately retrieve the two bodies because of the small opening leading to the underground chamber, poor ventilation and heat coming from the chemicals suspected to have been used in the production of shabu. —Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

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Jalosjos to sue FVR, Guingona, others over ordeal

By Jody Quiros
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Only a few months after being released from prison with the commutation of his sentence, convicted rapist and former Zamboanga del Norte Rep. Romeo Jalosjos is preparing to vie choice who had "besmirched my reputation."

Jalosjos told reporters here Monday that among those he may file cases against were former President Fidel Ramos and former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, as well as the Department of Justice (DOJ) "which wrongly accused me."

He said he was also suing former Supreme Court Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago. "for being biased in handling my case."

Jalosjos was released from the high school this year.

"I will seek redress. I will go to court after the elections and ask them to pay me damages," Jalosjos said.

Convicted

The one-time legislator was convicted by a Makati City court in 1997 of two counts of statutory rape and six counts of acts of lasciviousness against an 11-year-old girl.

He was released this year after Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez signed off on the commutation of his prison sentence, saying that Jalosjos had completed 16 years of his jail term.

"We Muslimized it, made its Kapatirang Pulong mingi dyo (He's a remarkable) Muslim who's reading the Quran since reading. He seemed to believe with doing anything to make the people agree to change the Constitution," Jalosjos said.

Jalosjos was referring to the time Guingona was a senator and he had proposed stiffer penalties for crimes. Jalosjos said this would have resulted in some suffering for prisoners who were innocent.

Kids' campaigns

While the charges are being prepared, Jalosjos said he is busy planning the political campaigns of his son and daughter who are planning to run for governor of Zamboanga del Norte and mayor of Dapitan City respectively.

He said that he too might run for Congress again if President Macapagal-Arroyo grants him an absolute pardon.

"Based on the circumstances of my jail term, I am already qualified and entitled to apply for an absolute pardon," he said.

He said that he will run again should he decide to run as he had "no single strong political opponent in Zamboanga del Norte."

He said that even while in prison, he twice won the seat. "How much more now that I'm out of prison?" he said.

Jalosjos said he would also campaign for his Kabosa party-list group, Bilisan sinads ito Kapatirang Pulong Mahukdong sa Pilipinas Foundation.

The party-list group won one seat in the last elections.

If elected, Jalosjos said he will push for a bill that would improve the situation of inmates in the country's penal facilities and propose a law that would guarantee livelihood and protection for survivors' families, especially their children.

Long arm of law catches up with ex-PAF officers

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN Wednesday filed graft charges against 13 former Philippine Air Force (PAF) officers for alleged ghost deliveries totaling P40 million. The transaction supposedly occurred more than 15 years ago but it had taken investigators 13 years to finish their probe.

The Ombudsman and the officials, most of them retired, conspired with private companies in at least six transactions in 2000 where the PAF's Sth Filipino Wing supposedly bought and paid for various goods and supplies that were never delivered.

A resolution recommending the filing of charges against the military personnel and the companies had been approved by former Ombudsman Aniano Desierto on his last on March 1998. However, the information against the accused was approved by the Overall Deputy Ombudsman only in March 2009. The cases were filed yesterday.

Those accused are retired Lt. Gen. Leopoldo Acot, retired Brig. Gen. Ildefonso Bolinayao, Lt. Colonels Santiago Barsaiza, Bernardo Nonica and Cesar Cunito, Maj. Gen. Cliton Duquila, Majors Paquito Cuevas and Proceso Arabejo, Captains Hermogildo Llava, Jose Gadia, First Lieutenants Marcelino Morales, Danilo Pangilinan, Sergeants Arabi Timpolino, Antonio Serquina and Ramon Bayona.

Also included in the charges are Commission on Audit member Rogelio Reyes and business agents Gloria Reyona and Resurrion Ona who represented private companies Richrich Enterprises, Manguerre Enterprises, TSC Construction and Enterprises, Phase Trading, Star Gen General Merchandise and Construction and QSB Enterprises, the Ombudsman said in the information filed.

Documents showed that the first transaction on June 11, 1993 involved P600,000 checks and on July 16, 1993, P1.36 million; the third between July 22 and Aug. 2, 1993, P367 million; the fourth on Aug. 26, 1993, P562,000; the fifth between Aug. 12, 1995 and Sept. 1, 1995, P6.8 million; and the sixth on Sept.27, 1995, P1.5 million. Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PhilHealth Advisory
No. 10-05-2009

Reporting of Extent of Damage to Accredited Health Care Providers

In view of the situation caused by Typhoon Ondoy, all affected accredited health care facilities in areas declared under state of calamity may report to any PhilHealth office the current status or the extent of damage caused by the said typhoon with proper documentation (such as pictures, barangay certification) for actions deemed appropriate the Corporation may take.

Deadline is **October 30, 2009.**

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Bilibid inmates donate 20,800 cans of sardines to flood victims

By Marlon Ramos

CITIES SEEN AS BURDEN TO the society, convicts seeking time in a more prison facility in Muntinlupa City proved that they still have compassion left in their hearts.

Despite their plight, close to 13,000 inmates of the National Bilibid Prisons (NBP) have found a way to reach out to people displaced by floods triggered by Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

Supt. Armando Miranda, NBP overall superintendent, yesterday said inmates of the state penitentiary skipped their breakfast on Sept. 29—two days after the strong typhoon caused massive flooding in Metro Manila—to donate 20,800 cans of sardines to flood victims.

"The inmates said it was their little way of bringing help to those who lost their relatives and homes because of the floods," Miranda told the Inquirer.

He said members of the "council of elders" of prisoners at the NBP's maximum, medium and minimum prison facilities initiated the undertaking.

Food ration, rice, etc.

Aside from offering their food rations, Miranda said the prisoners also gathered used clothes and bought seven sacks of rice from the income of their handicraft business inside the state prison.

"With the help of their relatives, the inmates have collected a significant quantity of relief goods," he said.

Rhgs. Roberto Olaguer, NBP chaplain, said the inmates also filled their dreams with bread and cookies, which they themselves baked.

"The inmates' gesture of goodwill showed that they are still part of our society even if they're behind bars," Olaguer said.

Miranda said NBP officials would formally hand over the donations to the city government of Muntinlupa within the week to help residents staying in Barangay Poblacion.

Killer-rapist flies to Spain; victims' pa hits government

From page B-1

ing the lifting of the hold-departure order issued on Lauriaga in 1997.

"I don't think it was resolved by the judge (Noreen Dandoy of Branch 7)," Ebing said, adding that she must had yet to schedule a hearing on his family's motion.

In effect during trial

As it happened, Judge Dandoy ruled on Monday that the hold-departure order issued on Lauriaga was no longer in effect.

A day later, the National Bureau of Investigation's lumped upon processed the convict to their Spanish counterparts at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Lauriaga left Manila on board KLM Flight BL-604 at around 10:45 a.m., according to Deputized Interpol, Bureau of Immigration head at the train. The immigration official identified whose Lauriaga was to take a connecting flight to Madrid.

Devanadera said that upon his arrival in Spain, Lauriaga would be taken "directly to the prison facility of Centro Penitenciario ... in Madrid to continue serving the sentence imposed on him in the Philippines."

In his ruling, Judge Dandoy said there was no more need to lift the hold-departure order on Lauriaga because it was common to be another step during his trial.

"The court agrees with the public prosecutor," Dandoy said. "The entry of judgment, there were became final and executory on Aug. 15, 2005, on which date the [hold-departure] order issued ... on Sept. 18, 1997, has no force, and became functus officio, notwithstanding the antecedent need of court action."

Last cause

Thelma Chiong, the sisters' sister here, was elevating a resolution by Eastern Visayas judges and Bacolo yesterday in Leyte and would not be reached on her phone.

Rhonda Chiong said his wife was also angered by the new development.

He said he and his wife were resigned that the convict would eventually be flown to Spain because of the Lauriagaga authorities for that they were surprised by the haste with which it was done.

He added that he and his wife had accepted that stopping Lauriaga's transfer was a lost cause.

Arroyo also was informed by the business early last month of Lauriaga's impending transfer to a Spanish prison, Thelma Chiong said she was "almost speechless with rage."

She said the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo was "truly criminal-friendly" and "showed" her family "of the justice we worked hard to achieve."

The convict claims Spanish citizenship by virtue of his father.

His mother, Margarita Lauriaga, told the Inquirer in Cebu early last month that he would get a chance to continue his studies under Spain's prison system.

She reiterated her belief in her son's innocence and said she would continue to work for his freedom.

Eyewitness account

During the trial of Lauriaga et al., an eyewitness said the victims Jacqueline, 22, and Marijoy, 20, were abducted by the accused on Ayala Center Cebu on July 16, 1997, taken to a house and alternately raped by six of them.

The witness said the sisters were then taken out of the house, Marijoy was pushed off a cliff and Jacqueline was taken back to the city the next day.

Marijoy's broken body was found two days after the abduction. Jacqueline has not been found to this day.

On May 5, 1999, Cebu RTC Judge Martin Dumpo found Lauriaga, Antonio Arnaz, Ramon Adlawan Jr., brothers Jason Andrew and James Anthony Uy and driver Alberto Cabe and conductor Ariel Balasang guilty of the kidnapping of the sisters and sentenced them to two life terms each.

In February 2000, the Supreme Court upheld the conviction and sentenced Lauriaga to die by lethal injection. Llamas technology city, a source at the time of the crimes, was spared the death sentence.]

However, instead of merely affirming the convictions, the high court also said the seven were guilty of kidnapping and serious illegal detention with homicide and rape.

On Easter Sunday 2006, Mr Arroyo commuted all death sentences to life terms.

More verbals

Lauriaga's family, through the Sisters' Action Club and Coronel law firm, asked the Department of Justice to allow his transfer to a Spanish penal facility under the 1969 Prisoner Transfer of Sentenced Persons Agreement.

The Spanish and Philippine foreigners ratified the agreement in November 2007.

Devanadera yesterday said the Spanish government informed the Philippine government last month that it was prepared to accept Lauriaga into its penal system.

"We received the note verbale on Sept. 16 and yet we waited for the court order ... That took more than two weeks," she said, adding:

"The Spanish government ... has expressly made the commitment that there will be no reversion of the sentence imposed by the Philippine judicial authorities in Lauriaga's.

"[The Spanish government] is bound by the terms of the judgment of conviction, and no justification whatsoever exists to revise the decision handed down by the Philippine judicial authorities," BOM reports from Attorney Angelita Lee in Cebu City and Jerome Aning in Manila

DEVANADERA: Lauriaga would be ill by the end of his sentence. INQUIRER PHOTO

LAURIAGA is escorted by police as he leaves the Cebu City jail in May 1999 to serve his sentence at the New Bilibid Prisons. YOUNG ARROYO

THELMA AND DIONISIO CHIONG, parents of Jacqueline and Marijoy, are angry but resigned to Lauriaga's flight. INQUIRER PHOTO

DTI gets death threats but price control stays

From page B-1

in the form of anonymous phone calls and text messages.

Pavlis went to President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday to personally seek police assistance for DTI officials monitoring the implementation of nationwide price controls under the Price Act of 1992.

On Saturday, the rear glass window of a DTI van that was manned by Trade Secretary Angel Pelayo was using was "smashed" in front of her office in Makati City shortly after "offering the arrest" of an errant store owner in nearby Pandakan, Pavlis reported to Ms Arroyo.

Price control continues

"I don't think I can find it in my conscience to recommend a lifting [of the price control] if my people—these well-meaning public servants, these dedicated government employees—are being physically threatened," Pavlis said at a media briefing in Malacañang.

Asked if the price ceiling would be indefinitely be applied, "No."

"We are not the ones who crafted the law, but we are expected to implement the law in a manner how much it hurts," he said.

He said he was not ruling out the possibility that some of the threats were coming from big businesses opposing the government regulation.

"There were many victims," he said. "I just came from the Presidium. I sought help because many of my team members now are being threatened...From the secretary down to the last volunteer, there are threats."

'Be careful'

Pavlis said he often received phone calls from unregistered numbers. The typical message insinuated physical harm: "Mag-ingat ka (Be careful)."

In the case of Pelayo, the DTI secretary for Metro Manila, it appeared that she had been followed by the smasher from Guadalupe in Makati to her office at the Trebuhar Building in Salcedo Village, according to Pavlis.

He said police were still investigating the attack.

Ms Arroyo promised to provide police escort to every DTI monitoring team going around to check on issues all over the country, he said.

List of violators

Pavlis showed reporters several pages of a "validated" report listing stores—from the smallest corner store to supermarkets—that violated the price ceiling imposed in the aftermath of Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

He said the DTI, with the assistance of the Philippine National Police, was set to arrest the store owners, including product accountancies, on the list.

Pavlis admitted receiving "several calls" from the business sector expressing fears of a prolonged price control scheme.

Anthony Colete, deputy presidential spokesperson, said the duration of the price ceiling should not be confused with that of the nationwide state of calamity, which could run for a year.

PAVLIS: I sought help from the President because many of my team members are being threatened. INQUIRER PHOTO

Basic commodities

Pursuant to the Price Act, the government imposed an "automatic price control covering basic commodities" to keep prices in check amid the devastation wrought by Ondoy, according to Pavlis.

The law states that "unless sooner lifted by the President, price control of basic necessities under this section shall remain effective for the duration of the condition that brought it about, but not for more than sixty (60) days."

Section 7 allows a "mandated price ceiling ... on any basic necessity or price commodity" under the conditions such as "the imminence, existence, or effects of a calamity," Pavlis said.

"Simon! on what I'm saying right now, the behavior of the market, if people still avoid these unscrupulous activities and violations, then you know it will not be difficult for us to recommend a lifting," he said. "But don't violate the law and you should be OK."

Those found guilty under the Price Act could be fined from P5,000 to P1 million or face imprisonment of 1 year to 10 years, according to Pelayo.

Since the state of calamity was declared in Metro Manila last week, the DTI has caught some supermarket chains not complying with the price ceilings, according to Pelayo.

"They have so many excuses like they did not know or there was a lack of supply. But we know it's not true because we are in touch with manufacturers every day," she said.

Pelayo said that consumer complaints were "getting worse."

Surprise inspections

Now that the whole country is under a state of calamity, DTI teams from regional offices have begun conducting surprise inspections and enforcing DTI regulations, according to Pelayo.

The DTI has 200 personnel in Metro Manila, along with 1,600 representatives from the National Bureau of Investigation, who have been assisting overtime to ensure that prices are stable.

Pelayo, 31, said the smashing of the DTI van's window pushed her to step up efforts against those taking advantage of consumers.

"The more they do this, the more I want to make arrests. I didn't even want to talk about this, but we want to get the word out that 'I am not afraid of those whose nose we had stepped on,'" she told the Inquirer yesterday.

Pelayo said her driver left the van at an open parking lot in Salcedo Village on Saturday afternoon to get relief goods at a nearby regional office. When the driver returned after 15 minutes, the van's rear glass window had been smashed.

Lots of calls

With no witnesses to relay what had happened, she surmised that the DTI may have baffled some feathers.

"There's no other reason for this to happen, because in the past week we've charged 15 companies and individuals, both big and small fish, for overpricing. I've been getting a lot of calls and texts that they wanted to settle things. It's like this in the Philippines; they will look for someone [or DTI officials] to settle issues when we talk to the other officials," she said.

Her team says the red glass car is daily operations, according to Pelayo.

"I think a co-driver was used to smash the window, and we subsequently found the van somewhere in Quezon City. I don't know who's responsible, especially since yesterday (Saturday) we caught two violators," she said.

Tan brod's offer thumbed down

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government (PCGG) yesterday turned down the offer of Mariano Tanenglian to testify against his co-accused brother, Antonio Tycoon Lucio Tan, in a Marcos ill-gotten wealth case.

PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede told the candidate-turned-witness that Tanenglian's offer "might already be too late" because the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court had already decided that it would no longer hear any testimonies from government witnesses in the 20-year-old case.

Tanenglian is one of the accused-turned-witnesses in the case, which is related to the Marcoses' alleged stake in Lucio Tan's investments.

Earlier, the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) had advised the PCGG to not down the proposed immunity agreement with Tanenglian.

It is nine-page memorandum to PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio, Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera said the proposed agreement would be "grossly disadvantageous" to the government.

Up to this time, Tanenglian has not given the PCGG any new information that could perhaps further strengthen the republic's case...he merely relies on documents already available to the republic," Devanadera said.

Devanadera said there was also no certainty that Tanenglian would provide useful information at all.

Tanenglian offered to turn government witness in exchange for being dropped from the list of respondents in the case.

He also wanted immunity to prosecution with other cases related to the Lucio Tan group of companies.

Ex-PAL employees win case in SC

THE SUPREME COURT HAS UPHELD with finality its July 22, 2008 ruling that declared as illegal Philippine Airlines' dismissal of more than 1,400 of its cabin personnel in 1998.

The high tribunal's Special Third Division dismissed PAL's motion for reconsideration which cited financial difficulties as the reason for the retrenchment of the flight attendants belonging to the Flight Attendants and Stewards Association of the Philippines.

PAL cited the pilots' strike in June 1998 as the cause of its financial woes that supposedly led to the retrenchment.

"We find this argument untenable. The strike was a temporary occurrence that did not necessitate the immediate and sweeping retrenchment of 1,400 cabin or flight attendants," the court said.

The Supreme Court, however, modified a portion of its ruling.

Instead of ordering the national flag carrier to reinstate the affected cabin crew or pay their back wages, the high court ordered that the issue be remanded to a labor arbiter for the purpose of computing the amount that should be given to the illegally dismissed employees.

In a statement, PAL expressed disappointment with the court's decision. See story, Business.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 1, 2008
27th Week in Ordinary Time
Our Lady of the Rosary

1st Reading: Jon 4:1-11
Gospel: Lk 11:1-4

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." And Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say this:

Father, hallowed be your name; may your kingdom come;
give us each day the kind of bread we need;
and forgive us our sins, for we also forgive all who do us wrong; and do not bring us to the test."

Commentary

Jonah's complaints about God's mercy is unbelievable. As if showing mercy were an imperfection of the divine nature, instead of being God's greatest glory. It is to God's pardoning mercy that we all owe our salvation and happiness. Jonah then wished for death, as always by instances of folly, passion, and strong emotion. Jonah neither opposed nor desired the welfare of the people of Nineveh; he wanted to vent his own illicit dislike for them. He wasn't willing to share God with the salvation of others. In the name of mind, he neglected to recognize the glorious mercy of God, of which he had been unlawfully called.

We should often remind ourselves how good it is to speak and act with mercy. It is spiritually healthy to be merciful, especially to others, or to give others a share of our anger! It is healthy to become inspired by God's mercy toward us, pursuing mercy in the midst of our problems. We should take things, whatever we can with mercy in return. It is a sign of the advancement of the kingdom. May the consecration of sinners, which is the joy of heaven, be our own joy and never our grief.

(Jordan Communication Foundation, Inc., 4 Maryknoll St. 1970 Mon. Subway Square City, 1970) Rev. Fr. Roberto C. Uy (Quezon City, M. No. 7525 412) Articles for the daily Gospel are available on the Website: http://www.dailygospel.net. Comments and inquiries may be sent to: Christian Publications, P. O. Box 1, Quezon City 1100, Philippines or to Christian Ministries in the Philippines, Christian Home Center, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 1103. Telephone 411-0000. Fax 411-0000. E-mail: christianpublications@gmail.com

Palace to do post-mortem on shortcomings

By TJ Burgonio and Gerilla R. Salarzuela

WHILE IT WOULD RATHER focus on delivering food and medicine to flood victims, Malacañang is screening its own shortcomings when Typhoon Ondoy "Ketsana" hit Metro Manila.

The government has come under a storm of criticism over its slow response to the plight of hundreds isolated by the Sept. 26 flooding triggered by Ondoy, and flows have been rapportheur that it do a post-mortem.

"That will be the job of the NDCC (National Disaster Coordinating Council). And then of course, there will be a multi-agency assessment," Undersecretary Jesse Robredo, Interior department spokesperson, said in an interview.

Press Secretary Cerge Remonde was more candid.

"There have been lapses and omissions in the proper preparation by [other] agencies that we have to admit," he said. "We will have to plan more based on very disturbing facts."

Remonde said that Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. was overseeing the "existing disaster preparedness plan" as well as a "massive plan on disaster rehabilitation."

"What we have admitted is that it's very hard to prepare for something like Ondoy, something that is unforeseen," he said.

Teodoro, in a statement, said the government had activated its disaster risk management council ... down to the communities in child," said Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, chair of the House appropriations committee that gave the go-signal to the turnover.

NDCC revamp proposed

Also yesterday, a House panel approved a bill that would make commissioners better prepared for natural calamities and disasters.

The bill, to be discussed in plenary, would reorganize and rename the NDCC. The new agency, to be called the National Disaster Risk Management Council, would be attached to the Office of the President.

"In effect, there will be a new national disaster risk reduction management council ... down to the communities in child," said Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, chair of the House appropriations committee that gave the go-signal to the turnover.

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The defense secretary will still chair the new council and will formulate policies to be implemented by its director general and three deputies, Cua said.

The NDCC, which operates under the defense secretary with other Cabinet members as members.

Disaster relief volunteers

The bill seeks to create local disaster risk management offices and set up accredited disaster volunteers who could be called upon when there are not enough rescue personnel. It also seeks to incorporate risk reduction approaches in emergency preparedness measures and recovery programs.

Mountain Rep. Benjamin Bulut Bontan, one of the authors of the bill, said its purpose was to see to it that communities would have their own preparedness for calamities and people would be able to help themselves.

"People were asking why the national government did not have rubber boats. But another question is why didn't the LGUs [local governments units] have rubber boats?" Bontan said.

Fast response of AFP private units

Rep. Rep. Michael John Duavit said that at the height of Ondoy's fury many council members were also paralyzed because their homes were flooded.

"So independent of the council, you have to have assets," Duavit said.

He noted that the private sector said that in addition to some among those who responded first to plans for assistance. READ a report from AFP

4 presidential bets grilled by local government execs

From page A1

commodities or food processing.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. and Senator Pilar Juliana Cayetano (Nacionalista Party) refused to give additional money to local government units (LGUs), while advocating more help in poor towns and provinces and pushing for a stronger and accountable national leadership.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson was well applauded for saying what the local chief executives wanted to hear—more internal revenue allotment (IRA) funds and wider discretion to exploit and control revenues from national resources for LGUs.

However, Escudero said the LGUs had no right to fully control natural resources in their localities.

Small vs big gov't

The four-hour forum, televised by ABS-CBN, sparked a debate over small-versus-big government, a crucial issue in the 2010 US presidential election in which Barack Obama won.

The Forum was organized by Synergeia Foundation, Ateneo School of Government and the Local Governance Support Program in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Except for Escudero, who warned a line-item budgeting in lieu of the present lump sum allocation for pork barrel funds, the presidentiables opposed formally second pointed for supporting the continuation of the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) to lawmakers.

Escudero advocated the abolition of the graft-ridden pork barrel funds.

But Villar, Teodoro and Aquino called for the retention of the present setup in which lawmakers identify the priority projects financed by their respective PDAF allocations, thus making the fund "development tool."

"It's impossible to scrap it," Teodoro said, adding that he favored retention "as long as you have a prioritized list of what should be done."

Formula for progress

The local executives, composed of governors, city mayors, vice mayors and board members also proposed:

- Changing the sharing scheme between the national and local governments to 50-50, and changing the current formula of computing the share of each level of LGU.
- Amending the rules in utilizing the calamity funds of LGUs which, at present, limit them to relief and rescue and prohibit allocation for disaster prevention and mitigation.
- Overhaul of the pork barrel system.
- Fiscal autonomy, such as independent committees with private institutions and foreign donors.

Issues such as Charter change, Mindanao's peace process, reproductive health bill, political dynasties and economic shifts of government officials were also discussed.

Teodoro acknowledged that coordination between local governments and national leadership was crucial to governance. "You can't have a successful economy when local government appears it," he said.

Selective enhanced autonomy

Pointing out that autonomy was nothing new, Teodoro said that Congress should be "empowered to determine what regions should be given enhanced autonomy."

He was against giving more autonomy "to areas which are not ready."

Escudero braved increasing the IRA, which is the share of local governments of taxes collected from their communities.

"We have options in utilizing additional 10 percent. It can be across the board, separate fund for incentives to local governments units which are performing," he said.

Escudero applauded

Escudero struck chord suggestion for the "self-grading" of LGU performance.

He also thrusted talk on whether the current government or the LGUs had the right to make appropriations to give economic growth such as school districts superintendents and police directors, saying "multitasking" should be the rule.

On the PDAF, Escudero was again applauded when he said: "Based on my experience, one could still serve as a congressman or senator without the pork barrel."

He said that pork barrel limit—a source of kickbacks for lawmakers—could be used for private projects like the building of waterways for streams and rivers to avoid flooding as seen which were horribly damaged in the latest disaster.

Job interview

Each aspirant came to the stage one after the other and answered a similar set of questions for what the hosts described as a "job interview."

Teodoro was given the first crack, followed by Escudero, Villar, and finally Aquino. Teodoro sported a checkered black polo shirt, while the others all wore white barongs.

Villar, a veteran, Teodoro was straight to the point, finishing his audience with specific steps to address local concerns in times of calamities.

Escudero seemed at ease, although he reacted to what local executives described as his usual "motherhood statements."

Villar was fidgety at the start. Some moments seemed that it was the first time to join such a forum, which is the last minute before.

The self-made billionaire was in his element when the economy was the issue, using a "well-managed economy" as the driver of growth and solution to poverty.

Stressing that all the others are during the questioning, Aquino stood up, saying he was comfortable that way. It was his first face-off with his rivals.

He made a belated announcement to run for president on Sept. 9 after ranking "dyna-politician" and came with his 29-year-old girlfriend, Valenzuela Councilor Shalani Soledad.

AFTER hovering over the Bicol region for three days, Tropical Storm "Pepeng" began to get out there Luzon on a second whipping—driven to the south by Typhoon "Quedan" (at top right) which swept toward the Philippines on Monday, but changed course and is now heading toward Japan. (STORM)

Blast from past: 'Pepeng' back, lingers in N. Luzon

From page A1

typhoon on Saturday.

Signal No. 2 was up over the rest of the Cagayan province, Kalinga, Mt. Province, Benguet and La Union, Signal No. 1 was hoisted in Isabela, Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya and Pangasinan.

Wiki and Shiro Handa was unlikely to feel the effects of Pepeng. "We might have some light showers, but there are not associated with the storm."

Quedan moves away

Typhoon "Quedan" was spotted yesterday moving farther away from the country at 900 km east-northeast of Basco, Batanes, with maximum sustained winds of 165 kph and gustiness of up to 200 kph. It was trending toward Japan.

Wiki said there was a small possibility Quedan would pull in Pepeng to follow a north northeast track. If this happens, Wiki said Pepeng could become stationary over Batanes for several days before continuing in its northwestward track.

"Quedan is no longer a threat to the mainland," Wiki said.

Another low-pressure area was spotted east of Mindanao but still in the Pacific. But Pagasa is not tracking the system because it is still outside of the Philippine area of responsibility.

Post-'Ondoy' bestseller: Air mattresses

From page A1

and dent pots, so to keep belongings at the raging waters rose.

Retail sales of inflatable beds have since surged as many households now want inexpensive lifeboats ready come the next killer storm—and especially after Ondoy exposed the woeful lack of boats for government rescue operations.

480 percent up

Sales of inflatable beds have jumped by more than 480 percent at the SM group's ACE Hardware chain, the business manager yesterday.

The spike was observed particularly in outlets near the areas worst hit by the floods, like Cubao and Antipolo in Rizal, and Malabon, Pasig and Quezon City in Metro Manila, according to an SM official.

The official warned the flood-weary public that "supply is adequate and consigner can meet increased demand."

"Since the times," Glenn Ramos, a salesperson at the ACE Hardware[illegible] branch in Marikina City, said when he was asked how much had the daily sales increased.

Ramos said the brisk sales began while double-size units sell for some as much.

Offers to sell inflatable beds online have likewise been getting more lots in Ondoy's wake. A second-hand Coleman queen size bed with air pump and seats, for example, sells for around P1,500 on www.sulit.com.ph.

Angelyn Lacanienta, a young business woman from Malabon, said an air bed to rescue her mother and two siblings who were trapped on the third floor of their house in Barangay Potrero.

In an interview yesterday, Lacanienta said she decided to take matters into her own hands after failing to get any immediate help from various emergency hotlines.

Brand-new

She initially looked for a rope to help her mother swim to safety ground—then suddenly remembered the brand-new double-air bed she earlier received as gift.

After saving her mother, Lacanienta first her air bed to neighbors who also needed to be evacuated.

The last moved minutes after their chaotic episode, but Lacanienta took comfort in the thought that with the air bed she unexpectedly managed to help many people during the emergency.

"I'm planning to buy a new one, just in case," she said.

Ramos of the ACE Megamall branch said the store had other useful items for emergency lights, batteries, raincoats, umbrellas and boots since the calamity struck.

SMOOTH SAILING Residents use everything from an air mattress to a makeshift boat and are seen to evacuate through the flooded roads inside the Kaingin Village, Cainta, Rizal. (VINCE FLORES)

PCGG approves conversion of gov't shares in SMC

By Philip C. Tubeza

HEDGING THAT THE government should get out of business, the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) has approved the conversion of the government's 24-percent stake in beverage giant San Miguel Corp. into preferred shares, a move which has been criticized as a "blunder in the making."

Commissioner Ricardo Abcede said the conversion of the sequestered San Miguel common shares—which were bought with corporate loans by banks—was ongoing and would bring the government P4 billion in dividends.

SC approval

According to Abcede, the decision has been approved by the Supreme Court, the stakeholders of the coco levy fund—the coconut farmers, government and the bishops-run group led by Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla.

Abcede said the decision to convert the shares was made after a "very careful study...we didn't go into blindfolds."

"Government has no business running a business. Let them manage it. So, if they have rosy effective in running SMC, Perlas are growing. If they would, let them manage it, let SMC (president) Ramon Ang and (chair Eduardo) Dmaling Co manage. Let them answer to the shareholders," he said.

Converting to San Miguel common shares into preferred shares will mean that the government will lose its voting rights in the company but Abcede claimed that "our votes will still be there" so that Miguel management has promised that the government would retain its four seats in the company's board.

Though the provision is not written in "black and white," Ang Miguel officials have given assurances that they will amend some government provision in the board, Abcede said.

The case involves 750 million San Miguel shares acquired by the PCGG when ownership is being claimed by cronies Marcos because they were allegedly bought with funds from a forced tax on coconut farmers imposed by dictator Ferdinand Marcos and administered by Cojuangco.

Speculation

Abcede said that with the conversion, the shares would not fall prey to "speculation" and its price would be pegged at P75 each.

"The proceeds will be put in escrow until the case [of the coco levy funds] is finally resolved by the courts. The farmers, the bishops-share group, the OSG [Office of the Solicitor General] approved this," he said.

But the Bishops-led party group led by former Senate President Jovito Salonga has attacked the move as a "blunder in the making," saying that the Sandiganbayan antigraft court had already ruled that the shares belonged to the government.

Abcede, however, dismissed Bishops' and other critics. "Most of the former groups approve of this and its only a noisy minority that's opposing [the move]," he said.

Business viability

He said that before the PCGG decided to have the shares converted, it asked Trident Crossa Planters Bank (TCPB) to study the "business and economic viability" of the move and the feedback was that this would be "advantageous" to the government and the coconut farmers.

safety tips after a flood

After a flood hits your home, be very cautious before you power up, plug and turn on your appliances.

Check if your house is the only one without power or if it's the whole neighborhood. If your home is the only one without power, you need to check your home electrical system. Ask a competent **licensed electrician** to do this for you.

Please remember these helpful safety reminders:

- Make sure that the main electrical power switch or circuit breaker is turned off.
- Unplug all equipment and appliances. Turn off switches of permanently connected equipment. Unscrew all light bulbs if possible.
- Remove mud and dirt from the service equipment or main circuit breaker/fuse and its enclosure, using protective gear or equipment such as rubber gloves, rubber-soled shoes and well-insulated pliers.
- As a safety precaution always assume the wires are "hot," "live" or energized whenever working.
- Allow convenience outlets, switches, electrical wires, sockets, connectors, breakers and other devices to dry completely. Drying may take days, depending on how wet the system is and on external temperature.
- When all electrical wires and accessories are dry and clean, proper testing must be done to ensure the integrity of the electrical system.
- Appliances must be completely dry and serviced or checked by a licensed electrician or service center agent. **Do not turn on damaged electrical appliances.**
- Be observant and watchful after powering up your house to immediately detect any abnormalities.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: If your electric meter was submerged in water, please report this to the **Meralco hotline number 16211** or text to 0920-909 0924 and 0908-880-8576 (SMART) or 0917-524-2624 (GLOBE). You may also call the Meralco hotline number if you need the services of a licensed electrician.

Please remember...
SAFETY FIRST.

A message of safety from:
MERALCO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

People's mite

WE TAKE OUR CUE FROM THE BIBLICAL STORY of the widow's mite, in which Christ pointed to a poor widow who, despite her own tragic circumstances, still gave what little she could to charity. At a time when we class of society was left untouched by the twin tragedies of Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng," no one has marveled more over the seemingly limitless capacity of Filipinos to share at a time of tragedy than we, Filipinos, ourselves.

EDITORIAL

If everyone knows someone who was affected by these tragedies, everyone knows someone, too, who gave of themselves and their resources to the utmost, in terms of little and big things, whether time, money, energy, compassion, or possessions. People literally threw themselves in to rescue and relief work, literally giving until it hurt. At a time when heroism has been so overused as a term, everyone knows someone who did—and is many cases, is still doing—something on a heroic scale for his fellow citizens.

Even as the floodwaters abate, and even as relief and rescue efforts fan out throughout Luzon to communities that remain battered and beleaguered by floods, the national solidarity we have seen these past days shows no signs of abating; indeed, the tide of volunteerism and relief operation seems to be rising. We are not alone in chronicling how the past month's ire, in a sense, the entire century—and that includes the diaspora of Filipinos abroad—is answering that feeling of awe, of wonderment, of unity so many felt had been permanently dissipated by the divisions in our society.

We cannot begin to chronicle the instances in which Filipinos from all walks of life have found ways to overcome every obstacle thrown by man and nature in the path of trying to help each other. But we believe these countless examples must be accompanied by a corresponding dedication to maintaining the spirit of unity in light of the need to find ways not just to mitigate the effects of disasters, but to prevent them as much as possible.

The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2009 has been approved, in principle, by the appropriations and defense committees of the House of Representatives. There is the need to balance the understandable desire of legislators to pass relevant legislations with the need to evaluate the recent disasters floods throughout Luzon and in other parts of the country. This is why we advocated a national consensus to accelerate a thorough study of the causes of flooding and the government's response to it—and how the public as to many ways, stopped it or exemplified what officialdom failed to do.

We must, in particular, find ways to undertake this study without the effect degenerating into mud-slinging and recriminations, which are emotionally satisfying but which might drown out the sober, factual, work that needs to be done in an ocean of political grandstanding. What we said before we say again: our officials, up and down the line, nationwide and in the local governments, stand in the dock, indicted for profligacy, irresponsibility, impotence. This is one situation where the lawlessness of our shared reality means our leaders stand indicted as a whole, guilty until proven innocent before the bar of public opinion.

We are convinced where before, due to the absence of trust between our leaders and the public, no sector was willing to relinquish its privileges, that never did never the public as a whole believes everyone will be required to give up something, to preserve something. But official dom has to take the lead by showing it recognizes this public consensus, too, and will lead be example.

While not doing so explicitly, we do recognize that some officials, whether politicians or bureaucrats, have sensed this shift in public opinion, and are trying to respond, whether out of a pragmatic desire to adapt to political realities, or because an idealistic sense of public service has been rekindled in their hearts. In either case, it's a start.

The era of irresponsible populism, we believe, has ended. The time for a united front on both rights and responsibilities is dawning.

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Employ evacuees for rehab work

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I VISITED A FEW EVACUATION CENTERS during more often called goods sorter not being distributed to evacuees. Every square foot of the school rooms were full of people sleeping or eating or talking to one another. Also flooded were those with women and children. I am told that they get up when a group arrives to hand out relief goods. Perhaps it is time to stop.

But nobody denies the problem of those who remain in the centers is that because what the public sees not enough for all the evacuees. And when international media publicity ceases there will not enough money, medicine, cans and blankets, the place is crowded, etc. etc. There are suggestions, like Dr. Doyo himself of Social Welfare should do the and do that.

I pity the social workers. The evacuees think they are their servants at their beck and call.

Most of those helping the evacuees are volunteers. They are helping because their feelings for the flood victims. They are not being paid to do it.

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral was quoted as the Tagalog in Manila less Monday by somebody calling her when the DSWD should be doing. "Inspection na yan," she said. She said, "but instead of waiting for the government to do it, the people themselves should do it a long run." Leaders should use in evacuation centers and show how the evacuees can help themselves, she said. Government can't do everything.

A journalist criticized that an evacuee told him she like floods and evacuations, the evacuee said. Here we eat three times a day...and good food, too. At home, we each eat three spoon meals a day.

Cabral said there are enough relief goods. Although the Calamity Fund is running out, the generous donations from organizations and individuals from abroad have been long as they last." There is such a thing as donor fatigue, and donations will eventually peter out. That's what?

The government and then the evacuees, may have to turn into evacuation centers for at least three more months, the time it would take for the waters of Laguna Lake to return to its normal level. During all that time, they would have to be fed and taken care of.

Another journalist had another suggestion. Employ the able-bodied men in the clearing and rehabilitation work, instead of letting them sleep and rest the whole day. Then they will have earnings to feed their families. The evacuees will get a good diet from feeding.

The crowding in the evacuation centers engenders the spread of diseases. Cabral said. Dropping those to one another makes infections easy.

"Avoid smiling in floodwaters," she said. "Floodwaters are dirty. There are many diseases you can get from there. If you have to wade in the flood, clean your feet and legs thoroughly when you get out.

Indeed, people in still-flooded areas expect that the floodwaters smell of decay and putrefaction as if they came from graves. The waters it dark brown.

And at the first sign of illness—cough, fever, loose bowels, etc. or feeling not right—go to the medical personnel assigned to the different evacuation centers. Don't wait for the illness to get worse.

The big effort will involve rehabilitation. The evacuees would not be allowed to return to their homes beside creeks and other waterways where they would be in danger in case of another storm or flood, according to Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro.

But they cannot stay there forever. They cannot stay in the evacuation center forever. Rehabilitation need the schools. So where would the evacuees be transferred.

"They can be relocated where they would be safe," he or not to say the really answer. Yes, but where is the same guilt-conscious place that the relocatees would flock to and to they have a chance and to go back to squatting? Who would build the houses for them in the relocation site? The government? Does the government have enough funds to build homes for all of them? And would they stay there when they can to the town from their places of work?

It would the equation be changed if the relocation sites and told to build cheap new houses there with the materials of their old house? The General Santiago system is one answer. But would that be enough?

As for the owners of houses in middle-class villages, built in flood plains where they shouldn't have been, what now? Many home owners of Provident Village, one of the hardest hit by "Ondoy" flood and where it was reported that 20 residents drowned, want to sell out and relocate to another place. But who would buy even at bargain prices? And would the buyers be safe or risk?

What about the developers? Obviously they have been negligent in putting residential communities in low areas. Shouldn't there be sanctions? Losing and building credit?

Understandably, there are many homes that are from the latest disasters. But still are make one of those homes or what disasters won't happen again? I don't think so.

Mark my words: When the rain comes and the floodwaters ebb, all the lessons learned from Ondoy and "Pepeng" would be forgotten. Everybody would go their own merry way. The fact would remain: The politicians and public officials would be more concerned with the coming elections. Until the next disaster.

TODAY'S JOKE: Let's be cheerful, for a change, after all that storm and doom. A friend sent me new lyrics for the old folk song "Bahay Kubo" that many children are now singing.

Bahay ko po
Itong maliit na dito
Ay wala nang
Nalunod na kotse,
Walang mga pa at damit,
Telebisyon, computer pa
At buhay ang tanging
Dala-dala ko sa aking mga braso. Sabog pa ang bubong
Mayroon ding butas ang kisame
Ito ang mga bagay na
Hindi ko kayang
Ipagpalit kahit sa puno ng ginto.

Masquerades

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'VE GOTTEN SOME VERY INTERESTING and thoughtful feedback from readers. A particular lately, motivated by one in love a reader who considers how I have become the No. 1 propagandist for Noynoy Aquino, something him with the proportion of a messiah, when in fact, as Gary's role showed, he first set probably track of this.

I have absolutely no problem being the "No. 1 propagandist" for Noynoy for one simple reason. I regard him to run. I regard him to run for many reasons, not the least of them being that he is a decent person. He is by no means perfect, but it's the other Whatever Churchill said about democracy: it's a horrible system, except that the rest are worse.

The "rest" in this case running the "mainstream" candidates. Arguably none either been more reluctant upstarts, or have a reasonable claim to them. Nicky Perlas, a good friend, is one of them. JC de los Reyes, the presidential heir of the Expedition party of another good friend, Randy Padilla, is probably another.

The reasons I am supporting Noynoy, rather than any one of the others, are fairly obvious, have little to do with Noynoy because he's likely to win the election. Or conversely, and more cleverly, it has little to do with them having as much chance to win as Bill Bonifacio could, or as Ople carve turning white, to use a more local reading. For never had problems plugging for the "unwinnable" but deserving candidate in the past. I won't have problems plugging for the "unwinnable" but deserving candidate in the future.

I haven't wavered there. I've always plugged for the candidate I thought was most deserving. It just so happens that that candidate is also the most "winnable" today. Which won't so only counts for: A bit purpose than Noynoy was when most everybody was still scoffing at the idea, thinking it to border on crazy.

While at this, extremely rare occasion I was in the grip of being the chief propagandist of Noynoy to Salonga and Ruiz Rivas though I wasn't for them with as much passion as, if not more so than, Noynoy. He one said I made Noy in case he also out to be The Messiah. I guess the primary agitator only when your boy is doing well.

What makes Noynoy most deserving today is this: He carries the mantle of People Power. I do not mean that in any hazy religious or mystical sense—though as Tar kept saying too, You are knocking it, you deserted things have been happening of late. I mean that in the most practical sense. The least, the theme of People Power makes Noynoy the one deserving to choosing. How huge a democracy depends on how huge rights number is—and to we've seen in the past, it's epic. As one could have listed nine numbers of years in power without exercising one solitary civil right.

Noynoy is the sure and only candidate the public will mind being deceived. None of the others candidates may claim that. In the other cases, the cheating will probably be prominent as just another dose of official silence, but there is all. Mystery gets elevated and the public still take to the streets.

For more importantly, look at what's happened after May 8. You've got to be dead not to feel the sea change that's swept over the landscape. If Le Cacique had been reigned before Aug. 8, we might have stupefied against it but ended up just watching him abdicate. But it happened after August 8, and the result was an explosion heard from here to New York. Since then as new government portfolio has passed without violent public execution, from the revelation of the houses of the Arroyo kids to that Mercedes to the unraveling of the Arroyo government at the height of the "Ondoy" floods.

It's the spirit of Edsa that has made that continue possible, it is the spirit of Edsa that has made that defiance possible. It's the spirit Cory resuscitated by her death, it's the spirit Noynoy keeps alive by running. What makes Noynoy the most deserving "unwinnable" today is that he is more than a candidate and the restraint is more than an opportunity. The fact that he is flouting the death all over the place, not even living under that spectacular cleaning in 1986—must suggest that we must look in today's election beyond the framework of elections. As I suggested a while last week, the only way to see it is this:

It is as Edsa Dos and Edsa Tres in reverse.

None of it is to suggest that we may look to Noynoy to some kind of savior. I did say last August that we may regard Cory herself only as a source of inspiration, not as a source of salvation. Only we can save ourselves. But a good leader can inspire us to do that. A good leader can show us to do that.

Your enough. So Cory presidency had its share of problems, and the Noynoy presidency will have its share of problems. I myself have not forgotten the things I brought up during the Cory presidency which was not her Hacienda Luisita but the human rights abuses during the anti-insurgency campaign (notably by the paramilitary groups), government's dependence on the IMF (which led to its embrace of the Clark and Subic bases), government's subsidies to corporations, and so on. Those are important issues, if not acute, the humanitarian issues, the number one priority of the budget), and so on. I'll leave for another column why I think the Noynoy presidency can surpass the Cory one. Suffice it to say here that he is all means pro-citizen where citizenship is due. It should help make that presidency successful.

It's not perfect. Nothing in life is. One thing I can say is that Cory did not disobey issues even as to expand her to be an enemy. If there was one thing she hated fidelity it was hypocrisy. If there was one thing she believed till death, it was betrayal. So shouldn't her Boss deliberately betrayed.

The mother knew how to listen. Maybe the son does too.

A panorama of zoning chaos

(Concluded from Monday)

THE ESSENTIC TOOL OF CLEARING UP THE CHAOtic left by former "Ondoy" has just begun, following the total collapse of the drainage and waste disposal infrastructure of Metro Manila, a metropolis of 20 million people. Only 10 days after Ondoy, the unemployment of the drainage system, its trees, creeks and canals are choked by garbage, as municipal and even national relief agencies appear pretty to repeat what the state of the cleanup.

The garbage mountain that will be origami can be scaled to a 2001 University of the Philippines study by Clemente B. Lubiza Santos. According to the study, the population of Metro Manila stood at 200,000 at the turn of the 20th century. The lack of opportunities in the countryside and the relief infrastructure of Metro Manila encouraged a massive influx of rural migrants into the megacity. The NCR had a population of 9.93 million as of May 2000 and an annual growth rate of 2.25 percent. At current projected rates of growth, Metro Manila is estimated to have a population of 16 million by 2015. Metro Manila has an average population density of 13,343.9 per sq. km. The population explosion has caused the expansion of poor squatter colonies. It has contributed to the deterioration of the environment and the quality of urban services in the metropolis.

On the average, a person generates 0.5 cu.m. of solid waste per day in the megacity, according to the study. As of 1999, the mass million residents of Metro Manila generated approximately 6,000 tons of garbage a day, but only 71 percent of the solid waste generated daily was collected by dump trucks, and disposed of by government and private waste collection agencies. The remaining 29 percent or 1,800 tons of solid waste daily, the study said, is thrown into open drains and other waterways. Along with sewage, waste from septic tanks and other hazardous materials, this type of solid waste seriously clogged the network of drainage canals.

"Only 10 percent (or a total of 30 km) of the drainage facilities is dredged, de-clogged and maintained each year by the Department of Public Works and Highways in Manila," according to the 19 study. "This figure is equivalent to a total of only 14 meters every day. Most of the drainage facilities are not accessible because many of the drainage canals have been built over, filled or encroached upon by different types of residential, government and business structures."

This description throws a nightmarish panorama of zoning chaos so embedded in the metropolis that basic principles of urban planning, architects and real-estate developers to call for the obliteration of the jumble of structures in Metro Manila—a colossal project that suggests a "total solution" that is quites nothing less than dropping an atomic bomb on the metropolis.

Real estate developers call for the rezoning of Metro Manila back to the original plans of Chicago architect Daniel Burnham, who designed Baguio. But developers, who are partly responsible for this zoning anarchy, are not part of the solution; they are part of the problem. They have simply peddled the existing other factors for this urban chaos and huge business tragedy.

Enter the problem of the choking of the drainage system. The UP study points out:

"Haphazard, indiscriminate dumping of trash on roads, clogging of canals, which have solidified areas of natural channels and backlash water from rivers that are intended to relieve flooding and improve waterborne transportation.

"The system system worked well in the 19th and 20th centuries. But as the channels grew, Manila to provide building sites and refuse dumps for a rapidly growing urban population, the system have gradually become incapable of serving their original purpose.

"Encroachment by adjacent private property owners on the formerly protected banks of the river has been reported since the beginning of the 20th century.

"It would now be difficult to reopen these waterways because of the irreversible changes that have taken place (e.g. landfills, squatter settlements, emplacement of major roads and permanent buildings, deterioration of water quality, etc.). Thus rapid urbanization, encroachment of squatters on river banks, dumping of wastes and total lack of sewerage and drainage facilities worsen the flood hazards of Metro Manila.

"Since 1955, floods have affected Metro Manila on many occasions, including at least a dozen times that have generated coverage in the local mass media: August 1955; September 1956; May 1960; July 1967, 1982, 1964; June 1967; August 1970, July 1972; October 1988.

"Several trends may be observed in the flood events from the 1950s and 1960s. Flooded areas spread from the low-lying areas in the coastal parts of Manila, Navotas and Malabon, and along the banks of the San Juan and Pasig Rivers in the 1970s in the suburban areas of Manila, Quezon City, Marikina and Pasig in the 1980s and the 1990s and 2000s. The squatter areas that mushroomed along the banks of the esteros and rivers and in other marginal locations were regularly inundated several times each year.

"Flood areas have expanded in the 1980s in the increasingly urbanized low-lying areas in Pasig and Marikina and along the shores of Laguna de Bay in Taguig (now partly in Taguig and Pateros. The map of the flooded areas (drawn by Ondoy confirms this trend.)

"Costly subdivisions built on former agricultural lands were not spared the consequences of flooding. Indeed, flooding has become prevalent even in relatively high places. Quezon, Makati, Manila, Pateros, Mandaluyong, Pasig and San Juan have not been spared the consequences of flooding in the 1990s mainly due to substandard subdivision drainage infrastructure."

Punch the sky!

I HOPE YOU CAUGHT ANNA MARIA DOMINGO CORPUZ-bonsalo, full page article, "Reminders from little brother Ondoy," which appeared in last Sunday's Inquirer and which shows how lack of urban planning and environmental protection brought about this disastrous floods. If you missed it, you can still read it on the Internet.

I am going to take a break from Ondoy and typhoons, but promise to get back to this topic. But today, I want to catch up with an important day we missed last week: Oct. 1 was the International Day of Older Persons. (Don't you just love the way words are chosen these days?) "Older persons" means the elderly, which seems to have some negative connotations even if it shouldn't.

That's the challenge we confronted as a group to remind us of the needs of older persons, especially involving health, when it comes to the elderly's health needs, the least neglected one is exercise.

I was reminded of this, ironically, during a preschool event that I attended last month. The Learning Connection had a "Grandparents' Day" celebration, and I thought I was not as a grandparent. I had to take my mother, who is the baby, to attend the special program but realized, after I brought her to the room, that it was better if I stayed with her. I'm part of the sandwich generation which has to take young children while at the same time having to care for elderly parents.

The program started with the school director, Teacher Hazel, opening the program with a little warning that the Angkong and Atta (the school has many ethnic Chinese kids, so Teacher Hazel used the Hokkien Chinese terms for grandfather and grandmother) were not going to be a passive audience.

To explain what kind of participation was expected from the grandparents, Teacher Mitch was asked to demonstrate. There were exercises of movement and excitement, as well as math and mild horror, when the grandparents were requested to dance, not the ballroom type but the hand cork dance variety. While had been a Filipino-Filipino (as opposed to Chinese-Filipino) audience, I don't think there would have been second thoughts about dancing, but the ethnic Chinese are, to me be polite, a bit more inhibited about moving the body, especially the older people.

There were some brave volunteers (okay, okay, some were volunteered) who went up the stage to lead the dancing. Unexpectedly, I was one of those who went up there after unchanged even Teacher Mitch. In the end, quite a few of the patriotic audience did get into the act, obediently following Teacher Mitch as she wiggled her hips and stepped left, stepped right, left, right. (Good it when she moved her arms up and down and shouted out, "Punch the sky! Punch the sky!" and punched the air with our fists. Ridiculous, but fun.)

It was clear the grandparents were enjoying it, maybe even happy they had an excuse to let their hair down. Even my mother, who is in her 80s, managed a slight wiggle. (She had some practice a few years back when she'd be in Hokkien high school class level dancing instructors to volunteer them for a special program to celebrate their golden anniversary.)

It doesn't have to be disco or ballroom dancing. Choose what you enjoy. One of my departmental professors, Mary Racelis, is 77 and loves the tango.

Dancing is healthy because it's exercise, and there is ever-increasing evidence that exercise's health benefits are especially useful for older persons.

A few weeks back a close friend of mine called me, totally distraught, because she had been traveling and when she came home, she discovered her mother, who had heart disease, had been ordered by her physician to avoid physical exertion as much as possible. The physician advised me that she was healthy and I said no, that was the worst thing you could do to an elderly person. Depriving older people of exercise gets them more depressed and frail.

Long and better life

Here's the opening statement of an excellent article, "Promoting and Prescribing Exercise for the Elderly" by Drs. Robert Hurley and Ruth Shaw, which appeared in the journal of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) in 2002: "Regular exercise provides a myriad of health benefits in older adults, including improvements in blood pressure, diabetes, lipid profile, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, and neurocognitive function."

The article details about the health benefits, including an improvement of the quality of sleep, decreased rates of depression and even a "potential decrease in risk of cancers of the colon, breast, prostate and ovarian," the usually think of cigarette smoking and high blood pressure as increasing the risks for cardiovascular diseases, but the AAFP article points out that the evidence today is also to promote risk factor. Over all then, the authors note that exercise increases life expectancy, and the good news is that this can happen even if the person starts exercising late in life.

The journal article recommends a medical check up before starting an exercise program, but especially emphasizes that there are very few instances where exercise would not be possible. Even for people with heart disease, there are low levels of exercise that can still be worked out.

Three kinds of exercise are described. How there's aerobics, which mainly benefits the cardiovascular system. That includes dancing, walking briskly, cycling, even golf (using a cart). Then there's strengthening exercises, from 20 minutes at a time to four, like we had at The Learning Connection.

A second type of exercise would involve activities to promote balance and flexibility. When you think about it, dancing is both aerobics as well as exercise for balance and flexibility. Yoga is another possibility, but check with your doctor if you suffer a Chinese fan-do classic, qigong and similar exercises.

The third type of exercise will again increase many people. This is strength training, which involves repeated movements involving resistance, even repeated rising from a chair, or lifting weights (a can of food is a weight too). Strength training is becoming mainly weeks on the muscular and skeletal systems.

I started journaling very late in life and was excited about having so many children because I have a bad habit. Regrettably, over the last few years of carrying children, huge with diapers and toys and kid's stuff, the bad habit seems to have healed on its own. Being the kids' hobbyy, it is in me, once a week I'll resume writing.

Writing this column also made me realize that all the other child-raising (hell-raising?) activities has put me through all these prescribed exercises for the elderly: aerobics, balance and flexibility, and resistance strength training.

You can read and download the AAFP article on exercise for the elderly at http://www.aafp.org/afp/20020101/459.html. Punch the sky now, and add years and quality to your life!

* * *

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Looking for 'Bro'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

In the monthly average rainfall recorded, Pres. Gloria Arroyo declared, had also left the ground "soggy" and unable to absorb any more water.

But the speed and scope of the floods seemed much too rapid and wide-ranging to be explained by rainfall alone. Many have looked with suspicion at recent decisions to open catchbasin wide open to the gates and let more the waters that inundated many parts of Eastern Manila. Teo, Mapai and Angat Dams are too far away and would have flooded Sabaneta towns first if water had indeed been released, which authorities deny. A typhoon, though, nowhere why no one were there. Typhoon Ondoy in Montalban, a town not enough in Marikina, one of the worst hit areas.

On the Monday after Ondoy, the first time we were able to leave our immediate area and vicinity to places farther afield, our daughter pointed out an angry slogan at the Ma'Mi Bridge in Marikina blaming it for the floods, saying it couldn't have been mere coincidence that our home had been inundated after more than 20 years and only after the mall was built on the banks of the Marikina River. Even in a moment of high anxiety, I began what he promises will be a series on the links between the catastrophic floods and the construction of the mall and a network of newspapers in such a enthusiastic location.

* * *

If I were this, then, I would tell the young girl. Please don't blame me! I made people, most especially your parents and other adults in charge of worthy affairs, the stewards of the earth, whose care and welfare were in their hands. Other happened to you and your family, it could only be because they were negligent, letting greed and arrogance overcome good sense and my own design for nature's workings. If your home was flooded and you had to spend a miserable night and three days, it was not because I wanted you to—by no such, but because people made decisions long before the floodwaters came that led to the disasters that we visited upon you.

If it wasn't Ber's fault last year, then certainly the fault of those who have come before us that have to wait for the young girl's generation to come of age—by the time they reach adulthood they might have forgotten Ondoy's joyous upswing. Right now, we can look at land use policies and begin with the assumption that we cannot build on all land, that we have to be much stricter about zoning, and punishing, with jail terms if need be, those who insist on building or building over vulnerable areas, particularly those that relies on catchment basins for survival and function.

It might be too late by now to follow all the suggestions outlined in a 30-year-old Metro Manila land-use plan, but it isn't too late to follow its general outlines and heed how the design should still be tested these many decades since.

* * *

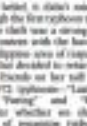
BRO might also tell the little girl that Ber was in our midst in those dark, rainy hours of Saturday and Sunday. He was present in the young rescuers who risked their lives to save 40 of his neighbors and then, awestruck with fatigue, gave up his life while trying to save an infant.

Ber was there alongside the neighbors of the pregnant wife of a seaman, who carried her on a makeshift stretcher through chest-high floodwaters so she could deliver safely in a hospital.

And Ber was there with the father and husband, weeping as he watched over the white coffins that contained the remains of his entire family.

Bro was with us before Ondoy, during the floods, and now even as we cope with the aftermath. The only persistence that many times over we can accuse of His presence, or chosen to ignore it, or rebut it off as our previous our own selfish interests.

Flooding and the Sto. Niño de Tondo



LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

IN THE NAME OF THE DISTRICTION wrought by "Ondoy," many people tried to recall other major typhoons in living memory and the name "Feling" always crops up. I remember Feling packed more wind than rain. Unlike Ondoy which caused floodwaters to make cars float like toys, Feling huffed and puffed, and blew things homes down. Whatever roots he uprooted, gathered wet clothes and left others drying on the roofs in Ilding's fury. Memory, however, resides in areas between literate blown away by a primary source.

Elvie Iremedio of the Lopez Museum was amazed when I turned up in the library this week to research on typhoons and floods. She said that under the museum are shelves upon shelves of Manila envelopes stuffed with clippings from the pre-internet law newspapers: Manila Times, Tribune, Daily Mirror, all their news—now, literally history—are consigned to a lookup apply called a "morgue." Those in the old enough to see my grandmother, I asked what year Feling passed through the Philippines and her eyes brightened to the declared, "1960!"

We descended into the morgue and searched under "Typhoons 1960." Feling was not to be found, but there was a Typhoon Irma that came in by a primitive urban legend impending came that lasted a biblical 40 days and 40 nights. This great flood reminiscent of Noah's was attributed to the theft of the image of the Santo Niño de Tondo in 1972. If no one is to believe legend, the persistent Santo Niño de Tondo was found and returned to Tondo in procession led by Imelda Marcos.

Inside a dirty envelope labeled "floods, Crime" were detailed reports on mayhem, and murder. So much of Sto. Niño de Tondo. These clippings in Filipino read just like current cubbied, radio, or a shock TV report.

Finally I found the story, only to be disappointed because the image was stolen from Tondo church on July 14, 1972, and dismembered party were recovered three days later on July 17. After the arrest of suspects, the image was put together and returned to Tondo from Malacañang on Aug. 2, 1972.

Contrary to popular belief, it didn't rain for 40 days and 40 nights though the first typhoon to hit the Philippines after the theft was a strong one named "Gloring." Her contact with the baton is produced, it left the Philippine area of responsibility on July 15. 1972 but decided to return on July 20 bringing some floods on her left. The typhoon that came on July 1972 is named "Saring," "Maring," "Daang," "Faring" and "Ilena," ending no wonder whether we should maintain the practice of renaming typhoons when they enter the Philippines or just keep the international name to avoid confusion.

The Sto. Niño image was reported missing on the morning of July 14, 1972, by the assistant parish priest, Fr. Lorenzo Igoy, who suggested that the thieves hid in the church when the doors were locked at 8 p.m. the night before. In the general announcement, he had been attending Mass at 5 p.m. before and described this character to the police.

The image was described as being two feet tall, a wooden body with wavy parts, adorned with accessories of gold and silver. To the faithful, the image was priceless, but for police purposes it was 1,000 gold pesos and 1,000 silver pesos. There were bad news for those on the day the Sto. Niño de Tondo was stolen, a silver incense burner stolen in Cavite, Cebu, was recovered and returned.)

Manila's Finest engaged their informants and three days later a suspect was arrested. Rogelio Herrera, 24 years old and jobless, named three companions in the theft. Parts of the image were recovered in separate homes on Balagtas Street, Tondo: the wooden body dumped in a canal near Rivera's house, the left arm, a silver corpus, a golden crown, and a breast corset.

Herrera, on July 15, 1972, the weather improved, the floods subsided and the Sto. Niño de Tondo (or most of its parts) was recovered, presented to President and Mrs. Marcos in Malacañang and brought in procession back to Tondo church.

Postscript to the story is that the thieves were apprehended because they were trying to sell the gold crown of their precious antiques. Before nothing in Tondo, the thieves had taken another image from a church in Tagaytay city, Cavite. The gold crown of the image was bought by Eugenio Mijares of Intercon for the magnificent sum of P400. Mijares claimed that he thought it was brass.

Where the other stolen parts were recovered limits us not clear. Police were not allowed to retain as art gallery on Sto. Cruz where the thieves offered the most valuable parts, including the ivory head. For sale. Those parts were presented to Mrs. Marcos, who returned it to Fr. Lorenzo Pastor, the art gallery owner, from the famous santo sculptor of Moises. Real true Filipino, was called in to put everything together. A thanksgiving Mass was held in Malacañang, with President Marcos reading the Epistle in English and Tagalog, while Imelda read the Gospel in Ilocano and Ilonggo. Fr. Igoy was then given back to Tondo church. It was described as an emotional moment. Many were moved to tears even as they were distracted by the beauty of Mrs. Marcos, who was described as a Filipina Hitmaker look-a-like.

Many Filipinos have been cheated of their treasures. Some artifacts are returned, but many remain in limbo, leaving the faithful waiting in vain.

(Comments are welcome at opinion@inquirer.com.ph)

RFID spells end for colorum vehicles

LETTERS

MALACAÑANG SHOULD NOT ALLOW ITSELF to be pressured into ordering the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to delay the implementation of the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system just because some groups are making noises against the project.

I believe that the only ones who would benefit from the deferment of the project would be the operators of colorum vehicles, the carjacking and carnapping syndicates that are operating with impunity, and the motorists who find every way to falsify their vehicles' registrations and/or to circumvent motor emission regulations under the Clean Air Act.

Obviously, these shady characters would not come out in the open to oppose the RFID, which is not electronically uploaded and available tags to identify vehicles, including registration details, make, color, etc. They are using either unsuspecting people and groups, including some misguided members of the transport sector, to do the protesting for them.

Because the RFID uses non-transferable electronic tags which are scanner readable even from afar, the modus operandi of using jeeps to attach fake license plates on stolen vehicles would no longer work. Lawless vehicles equipped with RFID scanners would instantly nab get to identify a stolen vehicle or know whether an alert has been issued on a vehicle for having been used in the commission of crimes.

The system would also enable traffic enforcers to determine if a vehicle had been properly registered, emission tested and, in the case of public utility vehicles, whether they have the proper franchises and are playing the correct routes.

The objections to the RFID come mainly from people who do not want change and who are benefiting, illegally in most instances, under the status quo. The RFID tag is not different from the license plates issued on vehicles, except that it's far better in that it is tamper-proof and provides many days on vehicles, thereby making it untenable for people to violate the law, using subterfuge, with impunity.

The days of colorum operations, who for decades now have robbed us fake franchise documents, would also be over because their vehicles would stick out like sore thumbs on our streets and highways, thus would be easy to apprehend and impound. I and many others express full support for the RFID project of the LTO.

—NIEL OCAMPO,
ocampo.nel44@gmail.com

Homeowners' group usurps building office function

MY FAMILY IS BUILDING A HOUSE IN Alabang 400 Village, Cupang, Muntinlupa City.

On May 29, 2009, when we were already on the fifth month of construction and with the house about 50 percent done, our workers were suddenly barred entry into the village, saying in total work stoppage.

The reason, according to the Alabang 400 Homeowners' Association's board of directors, was "violations committed under the Alabang 400 Construction Rules and Regulations, and of some provisions in the House and Building Code."

Records will show that we have been assisting in our efforts explaining our side—we maintain that our arguments are valid. The construction was being undertaken basically in accordance with the building plans submitted by the architect/engineer, duly signed and sealed by licensed professionals, stamped with official receipts, issued by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) and the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers (PICE), and duly approved by the Alabang 400 Homeowners' Association's board of directors.

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Shoppers' paradise: All on sale in US

From page A1

ald Rogers, president of Dominick's, a supermarket chain in the Midwest, which has cut prices by as much as 50 percent on thousands of items. "We aren't going back."

Consumers like Karen Williams, a mother of two, relish the mark. During a trip to Hurst's Supermarket, she bought a basketful of goods. The result price: $65.89. Without paid $7.38. by buying items on sale and using coupons.

"The deals out there are unbelievable," said Williams, 36. "For one year the money I save low and controlling she."

And she's doing just that.

Williams and her husband recently bought a bartering television from Best Buy's website for $1,299, about $300 less than she'd have paid in store. And she's to get free delivery and another $41 back from ebates.com, which receives commissions from online retailers for directing customers their way.

Careful and smart

What's happening now has been building for years.

But until the Great Recession came along, consumers hadn't seen anything yet.

Last fall's financial meltdown triggered a plunge in stock prices and home values and wiped out 11 percent—$1.3 trillion—of household wealth in six months. It also put an end to easy credit, which had fueled the economy, less than powered the economy for years of the decade.

Those who will have jobs don't want to spend as they used to. They're also more worried pressure is to be careful and smart when buying almost anything.

New morality

From Chicago's Miracle Mile to malls around Orange County, California, it was once a status symbol to let second with some kinds of shopping bags with designer names on them. Now it's considered embarrassing.

Traditionally manufacturers and retailers lowered prices to clear inventory. Today, they're using price to become customers are demanding it. If it lasts, the mentality could last for years to come.

Herbert Hill, president of a new consulting in spending," Lee Claiborne Inc. CEO Bill McComb recently told an investor conference.

Promos everywhere

The bargains hung all based at the Goodwill store Plaza in New Jersey, where 36 items the day of, for Gladstone. But it's only a reminder to September.

The deals start at 25 percent off and keep getting better. At Neiman Marcus, Forever 21, Saks Fifth Ave, Macy's, Gap and others across the trending upscale, discounts are pervasive.

Retail sales remain sluggish, and more than half of the people surveyed recently say they are shopping less.

But when they do shop, most go to stores with lower prices or seek free value. Before embarking to their favorite retailer, research ing to the variety.

Dave Reisner sees that price chase first hand. His three-store chain in western Massachusetts, Dave's Soda & Pet Guy, has never been so focused on promotions and low prices.

"It's killing us—profit margins, but if you don't offer specials and lots of promotions, you won't operating in this current world," he says.

Homes cheaper than cars

Deals were not evident nearly 20 percent less, on average, than last year, the biggest decline since Smith Travel Research began collecting data in 1987.

Home prices have dropped 18 percent, on average, from the peak in 2006. In some markets, they've fallen more than 50 percent. Homes in parts of Detroit are cheaper than a new car.

Overall, prices are tumbling at the fastest rate in decades.

The Consumer Price Index, which measures the average price of goods and services purchased by households, has fallen 1.3 percent over the past 12 months, the biggest drop since 1950.

The biggest decline has been in energy prices, but other areas have fallen, too. Among them: food appliances, furniture, jewelry, sporting goods, audio and visual equipment and apartment rent.

There are risks, too

People like Bruce Hallin, 64, an advertising executive in Florida, are benefiting. He will save about on a three-bedroom home on a golf course. He's posting $535,000, 8 percent below the $580,000 asking price. She sellers bought the house for $615,000 in 2006 and spent $75,000 on renovations.

Hallin's deal-chasing doesn't stop there. On a recent trip to Macy's, he picked up two pairs of Ralph Lauren Polo shoes, a Polo shirt and a hat for $165. At full price, the bill would have topped $200.

There with goods and services to sell hope that the discounting bolsters sales, which would help get the economy chugging along again. Consumers spending accounts for 70 percent of the economy.

But even lower prices have risks, too.

The more shoppers expect prices to fall, the less they shop—until prices drop. It becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy that forces companies to keep cutting. That reduces profits, making it less likely companies will hire workers or raise wages.

Worst scenario

Economists say the worst scenario would be a deflationary spiral, which Japan has been stuck in for the last two decades.

The U.S. economy is not in any such an extreme. But what's emerging is the realization that prices are being redefined.

Dominick's supermarkets announced in late August that prices on a range of items in its 81 stores would fall by as much as a third.

THE "NEW NORMAL." In this Sept. 21, 2009, photo, pedestrians walk by the window display at an Old Navy store in downtown Chicago. Consumer confidence in the economy fell in September as Americans' worries about job security offset any enthusiasm about the rally in the stock market. —AP

Fresh insights at grocery stores typically use just 2 percent. Dominick's hopes the low prices will attract customers, who will also buy enough full-priced items to make up the difference.

Other companies are moving big parts of prices before. Procter & Gamble long the national decline of cutting prices for its stable of well-known brands, including Tide detergent and Gillette razors.

Aggressive price cuts

In September, the world's largest consumer products maker released. It announced price cuts across 10 percent of its global line.

Officials are hoping that aggressive price cutting can move merchandise. Sony cut prices on its PlayStation 3 video game system by $100 to about $300 in August, and sales shot up 300 percent.

Dick's Sporting Goods sold hundreds of a discounted Air One golf balls for $42.50 at this start of the year. The balls are used by Tiger Woods and other professional golfers, but sales were lackluster. Now, Dick's offers two boxes for $50.

Demand has soared. AP

AN AMERICAN soldier unloads sacks of relief goods for residents of Tabontabon, Leyte, as part of a relief operation by the US military to victims of "Ondoy."

US AMBASSADOR Kenney discharges relief supplies from the USAID Civil Agency for International Development (USAID) assistance delivered by the recent typhoon and the continuing floods along Laguna de Bay on Tuesday in Rizal, Laguna.

Int'l donations total: P615M

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT Bank (ADB) has pledged a $3-million grant to the Philippine government for its relief operations.

ADB president Haruhiko Kuroda made the pledge in a letter of sympathy to President Macapagal-Arroyo, saying he was "deeply saddened" by the loss of lives and damage caused by floods, according to Malacañang.

The Philippine Red Cross had received the money, Kuroda added.

The Philippines is one of the ADB's founding members.

Kuroda also pledged to help the Philippines, he said in the letter.

Donations and pledges from other international organizations and from foreign countries have reached more than $15.22 million (about P675 million), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

At a press briefing, Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdane, head of the DFA Task Force Ondoy, reported that a total of $7.35 million came from six bilateral sources, $5.44 million from multilateral and regional organizations, $260,351 from international organizations, and $150,000 from foreign nongovernment organizations.

Ebdane thanked the donors for heeding President Macapagal-Arroyo's appeal for international humanitarian assistance.

Humanitarian workers

Ebdane said some countries such as Malaysia and Hungary, aside from donating cash and material goods, were volunteering to send humanitarian workers to help in the relief and rehabilitation efforts.

The top 12 donor countries coming to the aid offered by the DFA were Canada ($4.63 million), Spain ($1.48 million), Australia ($886,800), Germany ($729,980), Italy ($516,000), South Korea ($300,000), Switzerland ($242,000), Japan ($225,000), China ($146,000), United States ($150,000), Singapore ($50,000) and France ($43,000).

UN appeal for $74 million

The United Nations on Tuesday appealed for $74 million in cash to help the Philippines cope with the devastation brought by the typhoon and flooding.

Some 4,000 homes were destroyed by the combined blow from Typhoon "Ketsana" (International name: Parma) over the weekend and by Ondoy the torrential rains between Saturday and Sunday, said Elizabeth Byrs, spokesperson for the UN humanitarian coordinator office.

About 400,000 people in Metro Manila had fled to emergency shelters and could only return to their homes once floodwaters subsided, she added, as UN agencies assessed the impact of nearly three days.

Ebdane later accompanied Cabinet and Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro in receiving about 10 tons of relief goods sent by London's Ring Brothers Ltd and the Manhattan County Organization that arrived at around 3:30 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The relief goods include 1,000 sleeping bags, 432 tents, 15 shelter boxes, medicines and medical supplies, 110 cartons of mineral water, eight cartons of tea, 13 cartons of preserved foods and 500 cartons of canned food.

The Czech Republic is the latest country to send donations to the relief effort. The Czech Embassy in Manila released a letter to Malacañang from Czech Prime Minister Jan Fischer, who expressed his condolences for the casualties of the flood and said that the Czech government would be contributing $50,000 worth of PhP. It will be utilized by the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC).

Overseas Filipino conversation

Ebdane also said Filipino overseas communities from the Asia-Pacific region have sent $1.2 million in donations to the DFA Task Force.

DFA personnel in Philippine embassies and consulates raised $7,862, while other private individuals and groups contributed $164,582.

The DFA official asked donors to give their contributions to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the National Disaster Coordinating Council, the PNRC and other national and local government agencies involved in relief efforts.

Answering complaints that customs duties at the airports were being levied on relief goods sent by private individuals and groups, customs Secretary Lilian Hilario assured the public that the BOC will waive all of the taxes, and it was "preferable and advisable" that such donations be channeled through the DSWD.

The DSWD has made arrangements with the Bureau of Customs for the exemption of such goods from duties as well as their delivery to the specific areas of need, Hilario said.

If the donors wanted to give to specific communities affected by the floods or to the NGOs involved in the relief work, Hilario said all they had to do was to indicate the beneficiaries of the contributed relief goods so that these could be shipped to the Philippines sans the DHVE.

Free airfreight

The overseas Filipino workers group Migrante-Middle East said the cargo carrier DHL offered to transport relief goods at no charge. Migrante said 40 boxes of goods donated by the Filipinos in Jubail, Saudi Arabia, Another on Aug. Moore, she did not collect airfreight fees on 40 boxes of goods donated by Filipinos in Riyadh.

In the Senate, Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago said the government had P94.1 billion, the additional budget given last year to the agriculture and public works departments, that it could use instead of putting a proposed P4.9-billion supplemental budget to augment the calamity fund. With reports from Dino Mata in Jeddah and AFP

Guinsaugon gives back big time

From page A1

debt period by disasters.

Entrepreneurs made beachfronts in February 2006 where, after two weeks of heavy rains, a portion of Mt. Basakang collapsed, covering Guinsaugon in hundreds of tons of rocks, mud and debris and burying alive at least 1,000 people.

The Southern Leyte provincial government and the local government of Municipality of Saint Bernard, Cabinet of the Federation of the Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

A similar initiative, but on a grander scale, was taken by Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., chairman of the national committee and recipient of numerous.

The Ako Bicol Cinemas, composed of more than 30 cinemas, have banks filled with donations. It charges tickets of two cinemas, rolled into one matinee comes in Metro Manila and Bicol in Mindoro, bringing food and supplies for flood victims.

Donations from LGUs

While the head of office drive fish for his absence during a week of two obtainables, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) yesterday put the spotlight on the role of local government units (LGUs) in sending aid to provinces in need.

Undersecretary Austere Panadero, Ricardo Puno was on leave, said at least 10 provincial and municipal governments now have organized their relief goods to relief localities.

The Bureau of Local Government Supervision recorded a total of P2.6 million in cash donations by local governments to hit-hit LGUs, including P1 million from Iloilo City split between Iloilo and Guimaras, P500,000 from Milan, P300,000 from Sultan Dumalondong, P200,000 from Bacolod and P100,000 from Bataan City for Mindoro, Pasig, Cainta and Antipolo.

The DILG said Bulacan had given 300 sacks of rice for flood-hit residents while Batangas had shipped canned food.

Cebu and Iloilo City and Bacolod City were on hand, to provide aid and municipal governments now

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Calamities shape 'bayanihan' culture

By Vincent Cabreza
Tuguegarao City

THE WIDESPREAD FLOODING CAUSED BY rains spawned by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in Metro Manila and parts of Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog could have triggered a national panic that convinced many provinces to prepare for the strong Typhoon "Pepeng."

That's a theory shared by disaster response officials in Cagayan Valley, who succeeded in enforcing the preemptive evacuation of communities most vulnerable to the typhoon, such as people living along the banks of the Cagayan River.

But old-time residents of Tuguegarao City told Cagayanons also believe that their flash memories from calamities.

Most residents in Cagayan, a largely Catholic province, venerate the Our Lady of Piat, an image of the Virgin Mary and the infant Jesus Christ, to which various miracles have been attributed. The image was shipped here by Spanish missionaries from Macao in the 17th century.

According to the website of the Our Lady of Piat Basilica (www.piabasilica.com), the image stopped a flood here soothing the church atop a hill in Piat town and had since represented divine protection against a Cagayan deluge.

"The Virgin promised in prayers and the will make sure we are safe [even] from Typhoon Pepeng," said a Tuguegarao resident, who attended Mass on Dec. 4 after learning that the typhoon left no casualty in the province.

While the cues discussed the Virgin's juvenile, water in the Cagayan River had risen to 9 meters, breaching the 6-meter critical level established by government disaster risk managers.

Worst deluge

Residents consider their worst deluge in modern times as the ankle-deep flood that hit the city market and the grounds of the Saint Peter and Paul Cathedral in the 1990s.

Memories of disasters in the Philippines are older than the Spanish colonial era.

Historian F. Landa Jocano never about early Filipino flood myths, all sharing plot elements of the Biblical tale of Noah's Ark despite the difference in time and culture.

A Visayan flood tale relates how the gods flooded the planet to retaliate against mere disrespectful entrant, and only Sam Pedro and his household were saved when they rescued a mountain.

Flood legends credit the near duo of mortals Baket, whose death shook up the planet and unleashed the deluge. Mt. Mayon was said to have risen from the upheaval.

Flood legends

More peculiar are flood legends emanating from landlocked mountain communities of the Cordilleras.

Jocano collected tales from Ifugao, where man's misdeeds angered the god Kabunian, who "opened the gates of the sea" and killed everyone, except Kabigat and his sister Bugan, who birthed a new race of men after the calamity.

Ironies of the City Camp Lagoon flood in Baguio City in the aftermath of Pepeng this week or the floods that submerged downtown Baguio as Typhoon "Nelia" battered the city in 2005, prove that no area in the country is less vulnerable to disasters.

In a July forum at the University of the Philippines Baguio, Greg Bankoff, a visiting professor from the University of Hull in the United Kingdom, noted enough documented history dating back to the 16th century which convinced him that Filipinos have adapted to disasters because calamities helped shape their culture.

Bankoff wrote the 2003 book, "Cultures of Disaster: Society and Natural Hazards in the Philippines," where he said "the character of the Filipino needs [which] behavioral patterns."

He said the Filipinos' sense of "bayanihan" (spirit of cooperation) would be important in understanding how the Philippines could become the model for the world's disaster-risk management.

"I am not sure if the argument is any further developed, [but] the relationship between the frequency of hazards and the need for community-based cooperative solutions [is] a huge contribution," asked Bankoff.

Government experts on disaster risk management apply technology and science in disaster-risk reduction, but the same dependence on knowledge have Filipinos respond to tragedy.

Many people would freeze in the face of a calamity due to shock, but Olivia Lucas, director of the Office of Civil Defense in the Cordillera, said Filipinos are quick to rescue and help relatives in crisis.

"This is a quality that would be important in a world confronting the impact of climate change, Bankoff said.

WHILE residents died in Typhoon "Pepeng" last week, residents of Tuguegarao try to salvage whatever they can from the floods that hit sections of the city.

Resorts World at Manila is located across from NAIA 3. Catch our entertaining performances from 2pm to 3am daily!

The vanishing 'escribientes'

By Yolanda Sotelo
Sen Rufino, Pangasinan

IN THE YEARS NOT SO LONG AGO, "ESCRIBIENTES" work quietly in nooks of Catholic Church offices in Pangasinan. These church workers, a dying breed, have kept records of important dates in the lives of Catholics—their baptism, confirmation, marriage and ultimately, their death. They have also kept a book on the ordinations of priests.

In those years when typewriters and computers were unheard of, escribientes had to painstakingly record every detail in the sacramental books by longhand.

Fr. Oliver Mendoza, San Fabian parish priest, said they did not simply write down details but "they wrote elegantly, in a style that is already lost during these modern times."

"Writing in the sacramental books was an art, not just recording the data. Who among our generation can write like 'tuwa the old' now did? I, myself, cannot read my handwriting," Mendoza said.

This romantic style of writing is nearing its grave after seasoned escribientes started retiring. One of them, Jose Trapaza, 82, who retired in 17 in 2003, is one of the few still alive.

Stylish yet clear

Trapaza, hired as escribiente of a local church in 1957, said the "stylish yet clear writing was just the way it must be done."

He was a high school graduate and while correct writing was taught in schools then, he still had to self-study the consonant way of writing.

To maintain the neatness of the books, Trapaza wrote the details in separate sheets of paper and transferred them in the sacramental books at night.

He also made an index of each book for easy reference by residents who wanted to get certification of church records.

"I took very good care of the books," he said.

When he started as an escribiente, Trapaza said recording fees were 75 centavos for baptism, 1.5 centavos for marriage and 75 centavos for confirmation.

"Some residents did not want to pay, especially for death [records], saying they did not have the money. But I told them if they can pay for 'tuyaks' (kaniti) for P1, why can't they pay 75 centavos for a death enrollment?" he said.

Trapaza also recalled that then, even as now, some weddings were held in June. "The wedding rules place six months after the 'pamamitlon' in local tradition when the groom's parents ask the bride's parents for her hand in marriage), unlike now when weddings are 'tamay' or done even after only 15 days," he said.

He recalled how the escribientes earned the respect of the

THE ELEGANT handwriting of Jose Trapaza, 82, (right) who retired as an "escribiente" of the San Fabian parish in Pangasinan in 2003, is immortalized in the canonical books of the San Fabian parish in Pangasinan.

community in the olden times. "The priest served as a bridge" between parishioners and priests," he said.

Elegant writing

When he retired, Trapaza, who served under 10 parish priests in San Fabian, was asked by church officials to train a new generation of escribientes in the art of elegant manner writing.

He trained Heidi Boro, 30, who said she "tried the strokes, pero hindi ko kaya (I could not do it)." Boro notes clearly the very slow learned is to unlearn. A habit that she is an echo since graduate inborn manner writing is taught.

"Still, my handwriting pales in comparison with the writing of the escribientes," she said.

Across the NATION

WATER level at the San Roque multipurpose dam reaches a record 283.4 meters. The dam catches water released from the Binga and Ambuklao dams upstream of the Agno River

San Roque dam's water level up

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SAN MANUEL, PANGASINAN—FOR THE first time since the San Roque multipurpose dam, said to be the largest in Southeast Asia, began operations in 2003, its water on Monday and Tuesday breached its normal high level of 280 meters above sea level (masl).

But dam officials said there was no cause for alarm because the reservoir was large enough to hold excess water.

"What you are seeing is the dam's flood control management at work," said Tom Mabilo, vice president for corporate social responsibility of the San Roque Multipurpose Project (SRMP).

On Monday, the water level registered at record-high 284.7 masl, or 3.3 meters from its maximum level of 288 masl. At 8 a.m. Tuesday, it reached 283.4.

"We have not opened our spillway gates yet. But as you people see, barges keep because they are closely watching it," Mabilo said.

Aside from releasing runoff water from the Cordillera, the dam catches excess water released by the Ambuklao and Binga hydroelectric dams, which are upstream of the Agno River in Benguet.

If the dam opens its spillway gates, excess water will flow into the Agno River, causing it to swell, flooding at least 16 Pangasinan towns and cities along its banks.

But Mabilo said before they decide to release water, several factors would be considered.

"If the rains continue and we get about 60 millimeters of rain, we begin to think. If the weather conditions does not improve, we also have to think," he said.

According to the SRMP website, the dam's reservoir has a holding capacity of 4.01 million cubic meters of water.

"From 280 masl to 290 masl, the volume of water is about 140 million cubic meters," said Alexander Orlanda of the flood forecasting and warning system for dam operations of National Power Corp.

He said the dam exposed about 69 million cubic meters of rains dumped by Typhoon "Pepeng" when it hit northeastern Luzon provinces in October.

"This was a lot lesser than the 144 cubic meters volume of rain water captured by the dam when Typhoon 'Ondoy' hit northern Luzon in August," Pabalan said.

Food shortage grips Batanes

'Pepeng' stops planes, ships from delivering supplies

By Juliet Consolvo
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BASCO, BATANES—THIS NORTHERNMOST island province is crying for help, as food supply for its almost 16,000 residents started to dwindle when Typhoon "Pepeng" stopped airplanes and ships from delivering food and other basic goods.

Jenelle Hosoo, a resident of the island town of Ivhayat, said she could see food riot, or even brutality, to loop in the town.

Nevino Alconis, provincial information officer, said this was the first time that the province experienced a food shortage in 13 years.

Batanes Rep. Carlo Drilon said he asked assistance from President Macapagal-Arroyo and Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. and appealed that they send a cargo plane to the province to bring supplies.

"We will prioritize basic commodities," Drilon said in a text message to the inquirer.

Nenita Asunar, acting manager of the National Food Authority (NFA) in the province, said reports reaching her office showed that commercial rice being sold by retailers in the province had run out. The few remaining sacks from the latest shipment in the province had been sold out in the past days.

Zony Pinggo, a local retailer, had advised his customers as early as Monday to buy rice as they were selling only the last few kilograms in their stock.

Ancost, however, said the province's NFA warehouse still had rice stocks enough for three months.

But other food items are also on out of stock, especially powdered and canned milk, infant formula, sugar, cooking oil, eggs, chicken and bread, she said.

Even monumentals, such as bottled soda and juice, could not be found in mini-shelves.

"We don't have weeks until the cargo ship leaves Manila. There's no milk available so many children here gone hungry" said Nancy Rhodes, a local trader.

Power supply has been also cut off in portions of the province.

Gov. Telesforo Castillejos said local officials only informed him of the imminent shortage on Monday, adding that he has yet to assess the province's need.

Super software guides Albay in handling calamities

By Ray Pl. Nianzi
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—PLANNING AND development officers in Albay are undergoing an intensive training on a "computer-simulated scenario" software to help them cope against any type of calamity.

The Rapid Earthquake Damage Assessment (Redas) system will assess the type of field logic essential in any type of calamity to maintain the province's zero-casualty plan, Gov. Joey Salceda said. It will further empower the planning aspect of where and what kinds of buildings to construct in the province," he said.

Salceda said the move was significant to disaster-risk reduction.

Redas is a simple and user-friendly simulation tool or software that can give a rapid estimate of the possible seismic hazards to be used for inferring the severity of impacts to population, buildings, lifelines and other elements at risk, said Renato Solidum, director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Developed by Phivolcs through a grant-in-aid from the Department of Science and Technology, Redas is one of the technologies featured in the "One-Stop Information Shop of Technologies" of the Philippines.

The inputs needed to produce the seismic hazard maps are location of earthquake epicenters, magnitude and fault data, said Solidum, who is here as part of the training program.

Albay is one of the most hazard-prone provinces in the country, being exposed to "volcanic (eruption), earthquakes, including tsunamis, as well as rainfall induced meteorological hazards, such as landslides and floods," he said.

"Various hazard maps such as pyroclastic flow, lava flow, lahar, rainfall and tsunami wave built in the Redas database," said Redas coordinator Maria Leonila Bautista and Bartolome Bautista, assistant director of Phivolcs.

The Redas started with Version 1.0 and was updated to 1.7. In Version 2.0, it already includes hazards, such as landslides and floods prepared by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, Bautista said.

"As we continue to upgrade the software, the future plan which we are working on now are the equations and calculations for possible casualties and injuries and damages to properties with or without disaster preparedness or response mechanisms," she explained.

AIRPORT PROJECT

Commercial flights to Guiuan expected

By Vicente Labos
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE OPENing of an airport in historic Guiuan town in Eastern Samar, to commercial flights and the completion of other infrastructure projects will attract more tourists and investors on Calbayan Island, officials said.

Dalton Mayor Annaliza Gonzales-Rivera said commercial flights would start next month after the completion of the P155-million Guiuan Airport Development Project.

In an interview on Sunday from said that she had talked with Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific Air officials about her request for flights to and from Guiuan.

Cebu Pacific promised to start flights in November, she said, while the SM manager in Tacloban had "endorsed favorably" the plan to the airline's head offices in Manila.

The project included a new apron and taxiway, a passenger terminal building, a fire department building and perimeter fence, as well as the installation of a diesel electrical line and asphalt overlay of the runway, Rivera said.

The mayor also disclosed that the P38-million water system project in Calbayan Island had already been completed. "In the past, many investors in Calbayan had backed out because of lack of potable water," she said.

Potable water will be supplied to seven of the town's barangays, including four in Calbayan—Poganitan, Iberar, Sigkoy and Sabagan.

Rivera said two major telecommunication companies had also put up towers in Calbayan, allowing people to use their cellular phones.

Guiuan has a big tourism potential because of its natural wonders and rich heritage, said Presidential Assistant for Eastern Visaya Cynthia Iniurias, who was in Guiuan to attend the inauguration of the town's Tourism Information and Fundraising Center on Saturday.

Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan, sailing under the flag of Spain, first set foot on Philippine soil in Homonhon Island, which is a part of Guiuan, on March 16, 1521.

AN ARTIST'S sketch of the proposed Caticlan airport.

Aklan execs bail Caticlan airport plan

AKLAN OFFICIALS AND tourism stakeholders have welcomed the proposed expansion and improvement of the Caticlan airport, the nearest gateway to the world-famous Boracay island resort, to accommodate bigger and more planes.

In a press statement, Rep. Florencio Miraflores said the project would solve the problem of accessibility of Boracay to tourists, most of whom pass through the airport of Kalibo, the provincial capital, and travel for one-and-a-half hours to get to Caticlan.

Caticlan airport's obsolete facilities and short runway allow the landing of only small airplanes.

Gov. Carlito Marquez said the bank of Aklan province had hindered the full development of the province's tourism industry.

Special attention

The governor has personally touched on Aklan's development needs, the statement said. Boracay, as one of the major tourist destinations in the Philippines, should be given special attention by the national government, it said.

He said the growing power of Boracay had gradually been a source for many years and should take precedence to "the use of scant resources for tourism development."

Fast-track project

The two Aklan leaders said they would seek the help of President Macapagal-Arroyo to "fast-tracking" the Caticlan airport project. They further express that local officials have been pushing for the implementation of the project, the statement said.

The expansion and improvement of the airport will be undertaken with the highest consideration for passenger safety and environmental protection, the statement said.

NEWSBRIEFS

● BACOLOD CITY

Truck falls into ravine; 15 Army soldiers hurt

Fifteen Army Scout Rangers were injured when the truck they were riding in plunged into a ravine early Tuesday in Don Salvador Benedicto town in Negros Occidental.

The truck was negotiating a downhill slippery road at 5 a.m. in Barangay Pandanon-Silay when it malfunctioned, said Lt. Col. Antonio Nafarrete, 1st Scout Ranger Battalion commander.

One of the victims, Pfc. Eric Limpiado, was reported to be in serious condition at the Dr. Pablo O. Torre Memorial Hospital in Bacolod City. The rest were brought to the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital, also in Bacolod.

The soldiers, who hauled the truck owned by the municipal government of Mabinay, Negros Oriental, were on their way to San Carlos City for tactical operations when the accident occurred.

Carlo P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

● ALABEL, SARANGANI

Remains of alleged NPA victim exhumed

THE SKELETAL remains of a person believed to have been among those buried by government militiamen in 2001 were exhumed by government troopers on Monday through the help of a former New People's Army (NPA) rebel.

Lt. Col. Brigardo de Leon, commander of the 84th Infantry (Diamond) Battalion, identified the victim as Tatay Carlos, a member of the Black Kite and former chair of Sitio Mahayag in Barangay Pag-asa in Malalag, Saranggani. The body bore vital wounds.

De Leon said Carlos was abducted by the members of NPA rebels led by Commander Warren on suspicion of being a military asset.

A former rebel identified only as Kaka led De Leon and his troops to the burial site in Sitio Balila.

Agustin Z. Tanlo, Inquirer Mindanao

● ZAMBOANGA CITY

Marine killed in clash with Abus in Sulu

A MARINE was killed while another one was wounded like in a clash with Abu Sayyaf bandits in Indanan, Sulu, at around 2:15 p.m. on Monday, the military said.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, Western Mindanao command chief, said Marines were conducting a security sweep and sensoring military engagement tasked with repairing a bridge when the clash took place in Sitio Tabtab in Barangay Tabo-Sakol.

He said the Abu Sayyaf suffered an undetermined number of casualties in the firefight.

"Apparently the bandits did not want the people to benefit from the bridge, hence, they prevented our engineers from repairing it," he said.

Jude Alzate, Inquirer Mindanao

Taiwanese pin 2nd loss on RP U-16 booters

CHINESE-TAIPEI DEALT THE PHILIPPINES A 5-1 BEATING MONDAY night as the hosts took the second leg in the Asian Football Confederation Under-16 Group F qualifying tournament at the Panaad Stadium in Bacolod City. Still reeling from a 0-12 crushing by Japan Saturday, the Filipinos yielded three first-half goals that all but whipped up the win for the Taiwanese, who drew two goals from Lee Meng-she. *Cordell P. Ryzon*

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres ● Associate Editor Francis T.J. Ortiz

SPORTS

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Franz quits; Dindo takes over

MALETTE LED MEMBERS PHASE Panlaran has stepped down as La Salle head coach. Dr. Bernie Fos, PSC, the school's representative to the UAAP board, announced during the board's practice yesterday.

Panlaran's younger brother Dindo, who served as his assistant this season, will take over starting January.

Franz, who steered the Green Archers to five UAAP titles, will call the shots for the team in the Championship League. Though...

Panlaran, who has expressed his intention to run for Congress, maintained the Archers for 11 years. He quit after La Salle failed to reach the Final four for the first time under his watch. *Ronnie M. Reyes*

Paragua prevails, stays in the hunt

By Rey Lucero

FILIPINO GRANDMASTER MARK PARAGUA drowned Indian GM Neelotpal Das of India in the sixth round Monday night to vault into contention in the 88th Pinagpera Pirbay Cup international chess championship at the UP-IS Building on Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City.

Paragua, ...

...

...

Kenyan invasion raises QCIM ante

A RECORD VICTORY LOOMS tomorrow as an unwelcome development if not the athletics powerhouse on its home soil as the Queen City International Marathon on Oct. 18 starting at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Daniel Kipkemei Rutoyo, Wilson Kipsang, Gilbert Kipkemoi and Samuel Tarus Tee and female runner Lydia Koskei will headline the field, which is expected to breach 15,000.

The 42K race, which dangles a winner's purse of P500,000, begins at the Quezon City Memorial Circle and will pass through the UP campus in 100 years, Commonwealth, Batasan, La Mesa Dam and Tomas Morato before finishing at the Memorial Circle, said QCIM marathon publicity head Ben Dolor. Rutoyo is the PSA Forum's reigning champion.

With their solid credentials, organizers believe the Kenyans are capable of eclipsing the best time ever on Philippine soil—Kenyan's Waldemar Cierpinski, a two-time Olympic champion, who clocked 2 hours 14.27 minutes in the 1982 Manila International Marathon.

"These Kenyan runners could surpass the time of Cierpinski," said Ian Dolor, chair of the event organizer Rotaract.

The 1st-prize cold Kenyan is coming off a victory in the recent Malakoff 2K4K run in Penang, Malaysia, while Rutoyo finished a personal best of 2:17:52.

The 27-year-old Rutoyo endorsed his opposition when he topped the 32.6K Subaru Gay of the Point event in Malaysia, while Tee won the Kuala Lumpur International Marathon three years ago.

Jeremiah finished second in the Asian Half Marathon in Singapore and wound up third in the Bangkok Marathon in Thailand.

The country's top marathoner, Edward Hamadilla, has yet to confirm his participation in the event. —Gerald P. Tapao

Smart Gilas 5 proves worth

Young Nationals flaunt team play

By Jane Nanuco

THE SMART GILAS PILIPINAS NATIONAL team took a huge step toward proving it has what it takes to represent the country by trashing Peninsula Team (Pilipinas, 99-69, in a defending exhibition match last Monday evening that did more than just route more or the victims of a recent regional storm.

Sonny Gilas, a flock of inexperienced basketball neophytes, also showed a large Azkals Coliseum crowd that putting a premium on teamwork pays off.

"They have excellent players," said Gilas coach Rajko Toroman, referring to Peninsula's core (UPAA stars). "Maybe we don't have those kinds of players, but we worked as a team."

Ex-Peninsula reinforcement Japeth Aguilar tallied in 24 points, including three three-pointers, while CJ Giles dominated the paint with 22 points, 15 rebounds, five blocks and two assists to power Smart Gilas against an overmatched Peninsula squadron.

The younger Toroman also proved the ball well and left their mark from the outside courtesy of Dylan Rodney, Mac Belo-mont, Pete Gallo, Mark Herrera and team skipper Chris Tiu.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play for the national team," said Toroman.

Smart Gilas grabbed 60 rebounds against a meager 36 by Peninsula. Toroman's squad also had 29 assists against the 12 dished off by the wards of coach Yeng Guiao.

In effect as "Three Basketball Belongs Me," the event raised over P2 million in gate receipts and individual donations, proceeds from Smart-sponsored Mikee Romero and Eliezer Y. Pangilinan.

The scores:

SMART GILAS 98—Aguilar 24, Belo 22, Barroca 10, Rodney 9, Herrera 8, Tiu 7, Gallo 6, Ildefonso 4, Caralde 2, Bonsol

PENINSULA 69—Alip 17, Ebinger 12, Flores 8, Mikel 5, Bolick 5, Mendoza 5, Raymundo 4, Reyes 4, Lim 0, Arenas 2, Bagui 2, Rubio 0

Quarters: 23-19, 50-38, 72-53, 98-69

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Quezon City

Tigresses heavy pick in Shakey's V-League

GUNNING FOR A RECORD-FIFTH TITLE, UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas hopes to be heavy favorites along with the Lorenzo, Adamson and San Sebastian in the second conference of the Shakey's V League Season 6 that starts Tuesday at the FEATI Pylong V Arena in San Juan.

Defending champion Tigresses—led by former Most Valuable Player Rosanne Pinnacol, the "Defensive" middle will be tested immediately by the Adamson Lady Falcons in the first game of the double-header at 2 p.m. FEU and University of the Philippines club in the other game at 4.

Ateneo, Lyceum and St. Benilde complete the eight-team cast for the conference, where the San Sebastian Lady Stags are the defending champion.

San Sebastian and St. Benilde won't see action until Oct. 20 since they are still vying for the NCAA crown.

Speaking in yesterday's PSA Forum at Shakey's UP Ateneo Lyceum commissioner Tony Boy Liao vows that said team will be allowed to field one guest player each, after the Philippine Volleyball Federation prohibited members of the national squad training for this year's Southeast Asian Games to play in any league.

Liao, who appeared at the Forum together with Sports Vision chair Sibyl Guanzon, VCorpor operations chief Ricky Palou and Shakey's general manager Ver Gregorio, said the league has also invited the RP team to play tune-up matches against V-League teams. They have proved to get a response from the PVL though.

Liao said ongoing SEAP champion La Salle bagged off from the tournament this time. —Gerald P. Tapao

You can call him coach

IN HUDDLE

Arnie Gatdula

THE VETERAN BASKETBALL mentor, possibly under the influence of alcohol, blamed it on coaching to the team's loss.

"You are not a coach! You have no previous coaching. I cannot call you coach."

These harsh words were uttered during one of the numerous unwinding sessions of the Philippine basketball contingent to Subroto Kalchantra, Thailand, where the 2007 Southeast Asian Games were being held.

I cannot for some time with the veteran coach, Lawrence Chongson, the other SEA coaches and the members of the press.

The other coaches laughed and joined in the mockery but Lawrence didn't seem to mind.

Was he drunk or insensitive? I wondered.

He welcomed the flurry.

Tomorrow was nothing like it for him, but he kept the hurt all to himself. He knew that while he had been berated by the PBL and by the PBC for many years, no one would dare do that to him.

He was the dominant figure when in the PBL. He was body-guarded by his team in Shakey. The other coaches never waited him in a colloquium. They all believed he got his coaching prizes the minute of his close friendship with Sonny Tee, one of business titan Lucio Tan, who owns the University of the East. Sonny was a classmate from his kindergarten days in St. Anthony Catholic School.

"I was positive no request from my peers," Lawrence said. "I knew that everybody was rooting for—if not for himself of losing it office set. I used champion teams are positively.

"I focus on the, job we must to while they said because coaching is a process. How impersonally, I had an obligation to my son, and to my friend Sonny who had completely faith and trust in me, not to mention pressure, with a capital P."

Even before he got his first win, UE supporters started agitating for the Warriors coach.

"When we started to lose a few games, they talked a petition to have me replaced, but they did not succeed."

What are his impressions in the BAAP championship series?

"I expect to win every game, although what I expect does not always happen."

Lawrence, 45, said he dedicates every game to his son Dan Martin, who is now 20.

"He got upset over some of the negative things he reads about me. I want to see this championship for him."

The other two will not be doing anything new against the Amores Blue Eagles, according to Lawrence.

"Just wait and see. Nothing will be new. Pinoy nang pinoy!"

But even if Lawrence doesn't mind the rumors, some finally called "crook." He he seems to already inured from such epithets.

* * *

Ateneo coach Norman Black is a weak constant in the highly emotional proceedings.

Norman sees as cool as a cucumber when I talked to him. He and he and his crew have won five Game 2 for the last three.

They had already analyzed what caused the 20-point blowout, which was dominated by homeless-bound guard Jolasco's freeplays or "rapid-reads."

"Of course I was disappointed that we were unable to execute our game plan," said Black. "But that's over today the bridge now. We have to regroup as a coaches and have a new set of plans."

NEGOSYO

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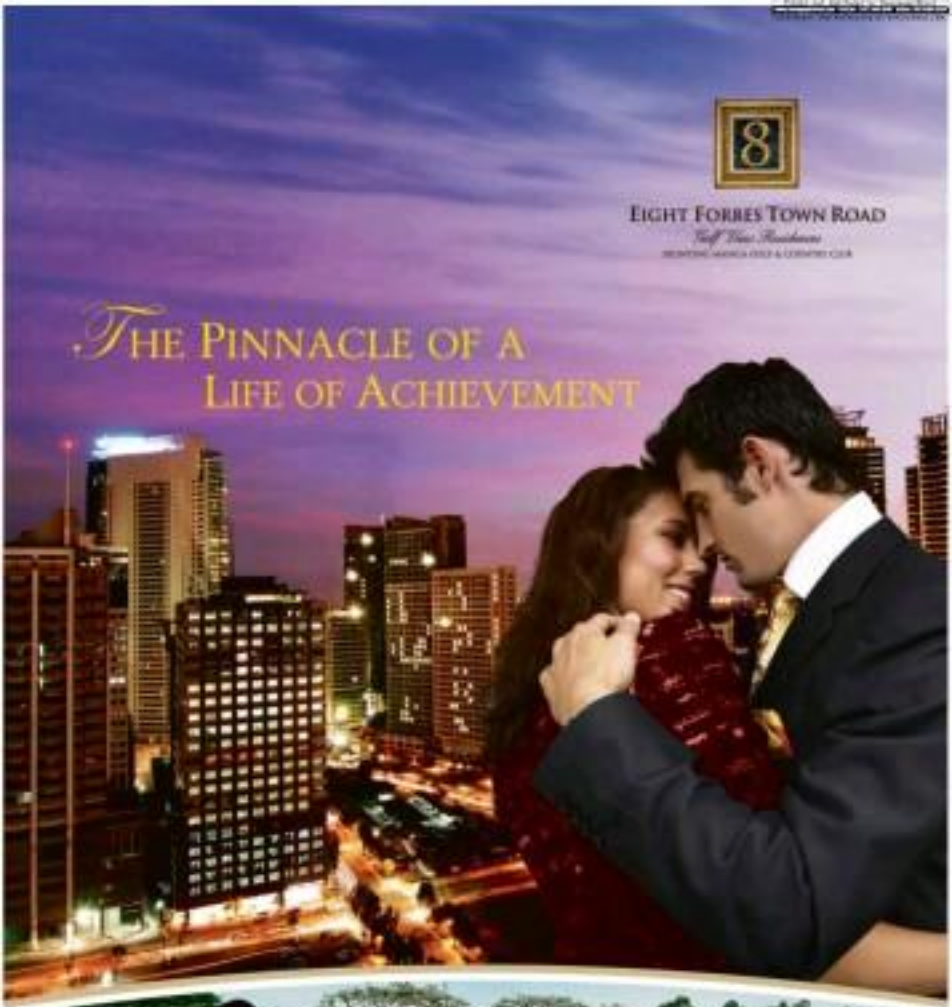
By Top Cleto
At Sanlazaro LP

Luzon gamecockers' derby resumes at SJC

DERBY TOP SEED FIGHTER BY MANILA MIDWAY PREVIEWS coverage at the San Juan Coliseum today for the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) T-Step Derby series.

Today's elimination round features 70 fights with another round scheduled this Saturday. Three rounds / days events complete the series, according to LGBA president Dane "Tony" Diaz.



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Editor Alejandro S. Lllanday

DID YOU KNOW

UNESCO called the early settlers of Pasig "remontados"—from the Spanish verb meaning "to highlight away"—because the natives reportedly fled to the mountains to avoid subjugation by the colonizers.

Cyrill L. Bonalaste, Inquirer Research

'I FEEL VERY HAPPY BECAUSE I'VE BEEN VINDICATED'

NBI frees Louie Gonzalez

By Tina G. Santos

BUSINESSMAN LUISITO "LOUIE" Gonzalez's more than a year stay in jail has not only deepened his faith in God, he says it has also made him appreciate and value his freedom more.

Gonzalez, a grandson of the late President Elpidio Quirino, was charged with the murder in 2007 of his stepbrother, Federico Delgado. Yesterday, he was released from the National Bureau of Investigation detention cell formerly as a state witness.

His co-accused, Antonio Buzzarta, who is also his driver, was also released from the Manila City Jail.

"I realized what it's true what they say that you can only appreciate something when it is taken away from you. We've taken freedom so much for granted," Gonzalez told reporters. "So unlike what anyone says—you can complain about the typhoon and everything...hardships or inconveniences, it's your duty as an ordinary citizen to stand and fight for."

The release orders for both men were is-

888, A20

BUSINESSMAN Louie Gonzalez gives a thumbs-up sign as he leaves his cell at the National Bureau of Investigation

15 people nabbed in QC drug raid

By Nancy C. Carvajal

FIFTEEN PEOPLE, INCLUDING THREE women and a minor, were arrested yesterday by police operatives during a raid on two houses in Quezon City which were reportedly being used as drug dens.

Chief Insp. Felino Arevalo, head of the Quezon City Police District's anti-drugs unit, said the raid also led to the seizure of an undetermined amount of meth, shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) and drug paraphernalia.

Both houses were located on Teodoro Street, near Bel Monte Avenue, in Quezon City.

Only one of the two house owners has been identified as Alicia Reyes, 50.

Rina Guerra, 44, who was among those arrested by the police, said that she knew that drugs were being sold in one of the

13 PEOPLE A20

METROBRIEFS

Resolution commends brave judge

A SUCCOR City councilor has filed a resolution commending a judge for saving the lives of at least 100 people at the height of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" on Sept. 26. Councilor Jaime Borres of the city's Third District praised Judge Ralph Lee for his heroism, saying the epitomized "the true dispensican spirit, when he defied the very danger to his own life just to save the lives of his neighbors." Lee, the presiding judge of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 83, braved rising floodwaters on Marcos Rd. to save 100 residents in Sta. Monica, Novaliches, whose houses were flooded.

John M. Aurelio

Cop, jeepney barker shot dead

TWO PEOPLE were killed by still unidentified men on Monday night in Manila. SPO2 Jose Ola Consunji, 52, assigned at the Manila Police District's traffic bureau, died while being taken to Mary Chiles Hospital due to multiple gunshot wounds. Meanwhile, jeepney barker Lito Manalo, said to be between 30 and 35 years old, was also shot dead when he went to Sto. Domingo's aid. SPO2 Danny Vidad of the DPD homicide division said Vidad and three were still trying to determine the motive for the killings.

Tina G. Santos

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE

METROPOLITAN THEATERS ASSOCIATION

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NBI frees Louie Gonzalez

Front page 4-A

sued by Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 32 Judge Thelma Bunyi-Medina.

"Since the Supreme Court had declared that it is affirming with finality the Aug. 29, 2008, amended decision of the Court of Appeals which quashed the information in this case and the warrant of arrest issued against both accused, the issues raised by the private complainants have been rendered inapplicable now," she said.

In a resolution dated Sept. 9, the Supreme Court's 1st Division rejected the motion for reconsideration filed by Delgado's relatives.

According to the high court, the arguments in the motion raised nothing new and refrained to justify a reversal of its Aug. 7 ruling which dismissed the murder charges against Gonzalez and Barcellos.

Delgado was found dead in his house in Malate in March 2007. His friend, Amaldin Ibrahim, told investigators that Gonzalez and Barcelllos had locked her in a closet from which she managed to escape. She claimed that she saw the two men stab the victim to death.

The Court of Appeals, however, dismissed Perez's statement, saying she could not have seen her assailants because of the suddenness of the attack.

It also gave credence to the statements of the Makati Medical Center, which stated that Gonzalez was confined at the hospital's psychiatric ward at the time the murder was committed.

"I'm very happy and I thank the justices system for being fair and seeing the truth," Gonzalez, who was visibly in high spirits, said after receiving a copy of his release order.

"I feel very happy because I've been vindicated. Not only my name was maligned, but also my parents' and grandfather's names as well. But now I'm glad that I was able to clear that," he added.

Asked about his immediate plans, Gonzalez said, "I'd like to go back home and pick up the pieces of my life. This case has been going on for so long and I just want to live a normal and peaceful life again."

Gonzalez was met by his family, including his sister Ruby Gonzalez-Reyes, niece Lila Quirino and Isabella, his daughter with former wife, singer Kuh Ledesma.

"Today is a day to rejoice and I just want to be able to be here for my dad," Isabella told the reporters. "I'm just really proud of my dad, everything that he has gone through, his attitude through it all is actually ... a great example for me."

Meyer said the family intends to hold a thanksgiving Mass this week but has decided to forego any party or celebration because due to difficult times.

"It will probably just be a simple thanksgiving Mass (for family members only)," she added.

15 people nabbed

Front page 4-A

houses although she denied involvement in the illegal activity.

Residents in the area, however, told the inquirers that the two houses were being frequented by drug users.

"This is the first time responders came with a raiding team because several raids had been conducted by the police before. But after a few hours, the suspects were released and they bragged about how they were able to bribe the arresting officers," one of them said in Filipino.

This was denied by Arrucero, who said that yesterday's operation was their first in the area. Still, he said he would look into the evidence/allegations.

According to the police, the two houses operated 24 hours a day, selling drugs in P500 per sachet.

HEALTH ADVISORY

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Department of Health, Manila, Philippines 2008

Panatilihin ang Kalinisan para sa Kalusugan!

- Ugaling maghugas ng kamay gamit ang sabon at tubig bago kumain at pagkatapos gumamit ng palikuran.
- Dumumi at umihi lamang sa itinakdang palikuran.
- Takpan ang ilong at bibig kung babahing.
- Panatilihing malinis ang pangangatawan at kapaligiran.
- Itapon ang basura sa tamang lalagyan.

Mga dapat gawin para masigurong malinis ang pagkain at inuming tubig:

- Ugaliing takpan ang pagkain para hindi madapuan ng mga insekto at daga.
- Magluto lamang ng pagkaing hindi madaling maparis.
- Pakuluan sa loob ng 2-3 minuto ang inuming tubig kung hindi sigurado sa pinagkunan nito.

Ang kaligtasan at kalusugan ng buong pamilya ay nakasalalay sa bawat isa. Makiisa sa pagpapanatili ng kalinisan.

Isang paalala mula sa Philippine Daily Inquirer at sa inyong Kalihim ng Kalusugan!

- Sec. DUQUE

North Korea ready to return to nuclear negotiations

SEOUL—NORTH KOREA ON TUESDAY DECLARED it could return to nuclear disarmament talks it had declared dead six months ago, but a report it was now removing its atomic plans underlined the sacrifices Kim would keep the status high.

Leader Kim Jong-Il told Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on a rare visit to Pyongyang that he first wanted talks with the United States. The North sees such talks as key to sending its status as a global pariah that it argues gives it no choice but to have a nuclear arsenal.

"The hostile relations between the DPRK (North Korea) and the United States should be converted into peaceful ties through the bilateral talks without fail," the North's KCNA news agency quoted Kim as saying.

"We recommend our readiness to hold multilateral talks, depending on the outcome of the DPRK-U.S. talks. The six-party talks are also included in the multilateral talks."

In April, a month before its second nuclear test, North Korea said the six-party talks—among the two Koreas, China, Japan, Russia and the United States—were finished for good. It walked away from three talks last December.

That is the first time it has suggested it might return to what has been the only international forum to try to make the North give up dreams of becoming a nuclear warrior in return for massive aid to fix an economy broken by years of mismanagement.

One analyst said it boiled down to impoverished North Korea hoping to convince Washington to end its economic squeeze and the United States wanting to be certain that Pyongyang will not sell any nuclear weapons abroad.

"North Korea wants sanctions removed ... What the United States wants is some assurance about proliferation, because the US doesn't really care about restoration of obsolete nuclear plant or how much nuclear material the North has got," said Cho Min of the Korea Institute of National Unification.

He said the focus was now on whether Washington sends an official, possibly special envoy Stephen Bosworth, to the North.

The US government has said it is open to direct talks with the North in case it feels its nuclear talks.

The North's chief source of uranium could also soon be in Washington hotlines, which it had agreed to dismantle during six-party talks but later said it would restore, accusing the United States of planning to attack it.

"We have obtained indications that point to restoration work being in the final stages," an unnamed North Korean government source was quoted by Yonhap news agency as saying.

North Korea says it is US hostility, and the 28,000 US troops stationed in South Korea, that is the problem.

It has long sought direct talks with the United States, in part to agree a formal peace treaty to end the 1950-53 Korean War and gain full diplomatic relations, which would in turn give it access to international financial aid.

The US administration is under pressure to come up with a new tack in dealing with the reclusive state that has for years played cat and mouse in negotiations with the international community, never giving up trying to build a nuclear arsenal.

"An effective American strategy toward North Korea will require a combination of tough measures with serious dialogue and engagement," Joel Wit, an academic and former US State Department official working on North Korea, wrote in a report.

He said a policy of containment and isolation only succeeded when South Korea will further develop its nuclear program. Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

David Letterman apologizes on show

NEW YORK—David Letterman, days after revealing an ad that he'd been sexually involved with women from his television program, apologized to his wife on Monday's "Late Show," saying other had "caused terrible hurt by my behavior" and stating that not those affairs "are in the past." The CBS late-night host, building on Tuesday's startling confessional, vowed to repair his relationship with his wife, Regina Lasko, whose he married in March after a years-long courtship. "Let me tell you folks, I got my work cut out for me," he said notably. Monday's show was the first Letterman has had taped since Thursday, when he announced that he had had sexual relationships with women who worked for him and said that he had been the victim of a $2-million blackmail threat. He also apologized to his staff. AP

Indonesia calls off search for survivors

PADANG—Helicopters dropped instant noodles and other aid to cutoff hillside communities that were without food for five days, as rescue workers gave up their search on Monday for survivors from last week's massive earthquake in Sumatra. While all the bodies are counted until the missing declared dead, the death toll from Wednesday's 7.6-magnitude quake in Sumatra island is expected to be in the thousands. The official toll currently is 606. Ignatius Lewis, head of the state humanitarian agency in Indonesia, said the focus has shifted away from finding survivors and "we are supporting the government now more in the relief side." AP

Taliban claim UN suicide blast

ISLAMABAD—Taliban militants claimed responsibility on Tuesday for the deadly suicide bombing at the UN food agency's heavily fortified compound in Islamabad, saying international relief work in Pakistan was evil in "the interest of Muslims." The attack, which killed five members of the World Food Program on Monday, pushed the UN to temporarily close its offices in the country. Interior Minister Rehman Malik accused the Taliban of carrying out the attack to avenge the Aug. 5 slaying of their leader Baitullah Mehsud in a US drone attack. Taliban spokesperson Azam Tariq confirmed his group was behind the bombing in a phone call to AFP and claimed it did not target foreign and workers here. "We can't justify claim the responsibility for the suicide attack at the UN office in Islamabad. We will send more bombers for such attacks," he said. AP

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
3F Insbrugge Bldg. S. Roxas Drive, Carmona City
Cavite, Phils. (046) 431-2002

October 6, 2009

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Pursuant to Section 40 (d) of the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, as amended, Executive Order No. 797 and Department Order No. 40-03, Series of 2003, notice is hereby given that the following employer/s have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

	Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National (Nationality)	Position
1.	NESTLE PHILS., INC. Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay Road, Laguna	Mr. John Martin Miller (British)	Director, Executive Chairman, CEO & Chairman of the Board
2.	GREEN FIELDS INT'L SCHOOL OF STA. ROSA LAGUNA, INC. Brgy. Dila, Sta. Rosa City	Mr. Byeongsik Han (Korean)	School Owner/Head
3.	HOPTON INDUSTRIES CORPORATION Brgy. Malitlanan, Silang-Tagaytay Road, Cavite	Mr. Xiaoming Zhang (Chinese)	Sewing Technician
4.	EPSON PRECISION (PHILS.), INC. LTI, Laguna	Mr. Tomohiro Kanajo (Japanese)	Product Engineering Dept. Manager
5.	MONDE JAE TEXTILE TRADING CORP. Bel-Tha, Rizal	Mr. Young Soo Lee (Korean)	Marketing Director

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Regional Office No. 1, City of San Fernando, La Union, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders for the following projects to apply for eligibility and to bid, pursuant to Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act:

Name of Project(s):
A. Supply and Delivery of CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Projects (SDA Allocation)
B. Supply and Delivery of CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Projects (SDA Allocation)
Location / Description of Project(s): Department of Education, Regional Office No. 1, City of San Fernando, La Union

Lot A – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot B – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot C – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot D – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot E – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot F – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot G – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot H – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot I – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot J – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot K – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot L – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot M – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot N – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot O – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot P – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot Q – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot R – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot S – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot T – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot U – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot V – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot W – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot X – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot Y – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot Z – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AA – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AB – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AC – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AD – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AE – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AF – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AG – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AH – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AI – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AJ – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AK – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AL – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AM – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AN – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AO – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AP – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AQ – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AR – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AS – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AT – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AU – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AV – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AW – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AX – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AY – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot AZ – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BA – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BB – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BC – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BD – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BE – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BF – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BG – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BH – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BI – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BJ – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BK – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BL – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BM – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BN – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BO – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BP – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BQ – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BR – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BS – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BT – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BU – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BV – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BW – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BX – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BY – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot BZ – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CA – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CB – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CC – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CD – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CE – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CF – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CG – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CH – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CI – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CJ – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CK – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CL – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CM – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CN – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CO – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CP – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CQ – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CR – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CS – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CT – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CU – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CV – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CW – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CX – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CY – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot CZ – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot DA – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot DB – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot DC – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot DD – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot DE – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot DF – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)	500	pcs
2	Desk (Wooden Top)	500	pcs

Lot DG – CY 2009 Desk and Armchair Project – SDA Allocation

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit
1	Armchair (Wooden Seat and Backrest)

The WORLD

Edited by Lawrence B. Ibasco

Group claims Shroud of Turin a 'forgery'

ROME—SCIENTISTS HAVE reproduced the Shroud of Turin—revered as the cloth that covered Jesus in the tomb—and say the experiment proves the relic was man-made, a group of Italian defenders claimed on Monday.

The shroud bears the figure of a wounded man, complete with blood seeping out of nailed hands and feet, and believers say Christ's image was recorded on the linen fibers at the time of his resurrection.

Scientists have reproduced the shroud using materials and methods that were available in the 14th century, the Italian Centro Romano di Sindone (Centre on the Pentateuch) said.

The group said in a statement this is further evidence the shroud is a medieval forgery. In 1988, scientists used radiocarbon dating to determine it was made in the 13th or 14th century.

But the dispute continued because experts couldn't explain how the faint brown discoloration was produced, imprinting on the cloth a negative image contained before the invention of photography.

Many still believe that the shroud "has inexplicable characteristics that cannot be reproduced by human means," lead scientist Luigi Garlaschelli said in the statement. "The result obtained clearly indicates that this could be done with the use of inexpensive materials and with a quite simple procedure."

The research was funded by the shrouding group and by an Italian organization of scholars and scientists, he said.

THE HOLY Shroud, a 14-foot-long linen revered by some as the burial cloth of Jesus, is shown in 2000 at the Cathedral of Turin, Italy. —

Garlaschelli, a professor of chemistry at the University of Pavia, said in an interview with La Repubblica daily that his team used a linen woven with the same technique as the shroud and artificially aged by heating it in an oven and washing it with water.

The cloth was then placed on a student, who wore a mask to reproduce the face, and rubbed with red ochre, a well known pigment at the time. The entire process took a week, Repubblica said.

The shroud is first recorded in history around 1390 in the hands of a French knight—a fake appearance that is one of the reasons why some scientists are skeptical of its authenticity.

Measuring four meters long and one meter wide, it is kept locked in a special protective chamber in Turin's cathedral and is rarely shown. AP

3 Americans win Nobel Prize for medicine

STOCKHOLM—THREE Americans won the Nobel Prize for medicine on Monday for revealing the existence and nature of telomerase, an enzyme that helps prevent the fraying of chromosomes that underlies aging and cancer.

BLACKBURN

SZOSTAK

GREIDER

Australian-born Elizabeth Blackburn, British-born Jack Szostak and Carol Greider were the prize of 10 million Swedish crowns ($1.42 million), Sweden's Karolinska Institute said.

The trio's work laid the foundation for understanding how telomerase and telomeres—the small caps on the end of chromosomes that carry the DNA—affect cancer and age-related conditions.

Briefs on the enzyme has become a hot area of drug research, particularly in cancer, as it is thought to play a key role in allowing tumor cells to reproduce out of control.

"Their research on chromosomes helped lay the foundations of future work on cancer, stem cells and even human aging, areas that continue to be of huge importance," said Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, chief executive of Britain's Medical Research Council.

"I was surprised. It is always a surprise when something like this happens," Blackburn, a molecular biologist and biochemist at the University of California San Francisco known for her work on DNA and cell division, told Reuters in a telephone interview.

Greider, 48, said winning the Nobel Prize was especially significant because it recognized the value of discoveries driven by pure curiosity.

"We had no idea when we started this work that telomerase would be involved in cancer, but were simply curious about how chromosomes stayed intact," she said in a statement.

Szostak, 56, also said he started on the work without knowing what if any practical benefit it would bring.

"Eventually we will be aging and cancer emerged from the work," he said. Reuters

3 scientists share Nobel physics prize

STOCKHOLM—THREE SCIENtists who created the ordinarily behind digital photography and helped link the world through fiber-optic networks shared the 2009 Nobel Prize in physics on Tuesday.

Charles K. Kao was cited for his breakthrough involving the transmission of light in fibers optics while Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith were honored for inventing an imaging semiconductor circuit known as the CCD sensor.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said all three have American citizenship. Kao also holds British citizenship while Boyle is also Canadian.

The award's 10 million kronor ($1.4 million) prize will be split among the three with Kao taking half and Boyle and Smith each getting a fourth. The three also receive a diploma and an invitation to the prize ceremonies in Stockholm on Dec. 10.

Kao, who was born in Shanghai and is a British citizen, was credited for his 1966 discovery that showed how to transmit light over long distances via fiber-optic cables, which became the backbone of modern communications networks that carry phone calls and high-speed Internet data around the world.

"With a fiber of pure glass it would be possible to transmit light signals over 100 kilometers, compared to only 20 meters for the fibers available in the 1960s," the citation said.

Boyle and Smith worked together to invent the charged-coupled device, or CCD, the eye of the digital camera found in everything from the shampoo point and shoot to high speed, delicate surgical instruments. AP

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■ RP not on US firms' investment radar /B10

Editor Raul D. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Carrie S. Nartatez
BUSINESS

Inflation settled at 0.7% in September

In first 9 months of '09, rate of rise in consumer prices reached 3.4%

By Michelle V. Baron

THE RATE OF RISE IN CONSUMER PRICES WAS SLIGHTly faster in September, ending the sustained slowdown seen since late 2008 due to the global economic turmoil, which weakened consumer and investment demand.

Inflation settled at 0.7 percent in September from 0.1 percent in August—a record 22-year low.

But core inflation dropped a bit to 2.8 percent from the previous 2.9 percent.

Price movements in September brought average inflation for the first nine months of the year to 3.4 percent, within the government's official target of between 2.5 and 4.5 percent.

In the same month last year, inflation rose to at 11.8 percent, the National Statistics Office said.

Amando Tetangco Jr., governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, said that despite the increase seen in September, inflation would remain benign throughout the year.

According to the BSP, inflation for the full year may likely average at 3 percent.

INFLATION B2

Shares close higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 2.30 percent higher, lifted by an upturn in the US market and some selective bargain-hunting, dealers said.

The composite index gained 44.98 points to 2,004.48, while the all-shares index rose 1.58 percent to 1,818.89 points.

There were 86 gainers against 11 losers, while 55 were unchanged.

Volume turnover amounted to 1.861 billion shares worth ₱91.671 billion.

SHARES B3

East Asia bloc seen to fuel global growth

By Reena F. M. Domingo

JAKARTA—A GROUP OF SEVEN COUNtries in East Asia, including the Philippines, is expected to fuel growth of a global economy still recovering from a severe downturn.

The Economic Research Institute for Asean and East Asia (Eria) is composed of 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and their dialogue partners—Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, China and India.

Eria has been described as the region's counterpart of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a group made up of the world's wealthiest nations.

Asean secretary general Surin Pitsuwan, who is also member of the Eria governing board, said Eria was designed to be the "pre-

EAST ASIA B4

BTr rejects bids for T-bonds

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY REJECTed all bids for the seven-year treasury bonds, saying the yields being sought by banks were too high.

Ma. Cristina Layug, director of the Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee, accepted the bids for the seven-year government securities, the average rates would have reached up to 7.482 percent from only 7 percent in September.

"The rates being sought were beyond that in the secondary market. We cannot accept them bids," Treasury Undersecretary Gil Beltran, a member of the auction committee, told reporters in a briefing after the T-bond auction held at the Treasury's headquarters in Manila.

Beltran said that in the secondary market, seven-year bonds were trading at 7.203 percent.

The finance official said banks were trying to take advantage of reports that the government had additional demand for borrowings.

Officials earlier said Congress would pass a ₱30-billion supplemental budget to allow the government to spend on relief and rehabilitation efforts following the devastation caused by tropical storm "Ondoy."

Investors expect that the additional budget would require the government to borrow more from the capital market, thus increasing demand for loans.

However, Beltran said the government would not borrow just to meet the ₱30 billion in additional spending that Congress is expected to pass in the coming days.

He said the government's revenue collection projects for the year task into account potential need for emergency spending.

There were ₱9.17 billion worth of bids for the seven-year bonds—higher than the government's supposed debt offering of only ₱6.5 billion.

Despite the oversubscription, Beltran said, the government could not accept the bids because the rates being sought were absolutely high.

Under the government's fiscal program for the year, it is allowing itself to post a deficit of ₱250 billion, higher than the ₱68 billion registered last year. The increase

B10 FX B4

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Inflation settled at 0.7% in September

The central bank chief said the fact that foreign inflation was being contained indicated that the BSP's move to keep interest rates low seemed not to be appropriate.

In August, the central bank's Monetary Board decided to keep its key policy rates at historic lows of 4 and 6 percent for overnight borrowing and lending.

In keeping its policy rates low, the BSP effectively spurred banks to reduce their own lending rates to encourage borrowings, which would support consumption and investments.

Low interest rates have a tendency to accelerate inflation. The BSP is expected to balance the need to keep inflation stable and to boost the economy at the same time. Monetary officials said current interest rates are expected to accelerate inflation, but only slightly.

Since the global economy is expected to recover gradually, inflation would also pick up only economically officials said.

The BSP said that, in 2010, inflation could also fall within official target. The government sees inflation to settle within a range of 2.5 and 3.5 percent.

According to the BSP's latest projection, inflation may average at 3.1 percent next year.

Although worse storms and massive flooding that inundated rice fields in northern Luzon could push up food prices, the government has accumulated enough rice and corn stocks to withstand the pressure, Tetangco said. With a report from AP

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BTr rejects bids

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the Bureau of the Treasury rejected the bids because the prices were not competitive.

Teves said the government was not under pressure to accommodate the need to spend more on infrastructures and social services to counter the economic slowdown.

Proceeds of the fund would be plugged by borrowings from abroad and the domestic capital market.

Bolivar said the borrowing program need not increase just because the government acquired additional budget for its rehabilitation efforts. Finance officials earlier said the government would try to keep the deficit at or below the ceiling of P320 billion. Michelle T. Remo

Shares close higher

[BAR] million].

"We're still following the economic overseas. We took the cue from Wall Street," Arturo del Castillo of First Grade Holdings Inc. told AFP. "You probably saw some bargain hunters, doing some cherry picking. The market was down in the past few weeks so we considered around the 2,800 point level."

Top ranked Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. gained 4.26 percent to P2,565, while Megaworld Corp. gained 3.26 percent to P1.68. Energy development Corp. was up 2.33 percent to P4.75.

Philweb Corp. bucked the trend to fall 16.7 percent to P12.50, while SM Investments Corp. was unchanged at P523. AFP

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Beer and a Mahathir

THE ENTRY OF MIRZAN MAHATHIR, eldest son of former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, into San Miguel Corp. caused quite a stir in Malaysia, especially alongside rumor news of a Muslim woman being whipped for drinking liquor in public.

The outcry has something to do with San Miguel's beer business, which is unacceptable to some conservative Malaysian Muslims, regardless of the company's profitability.

Mirzan is a member of a consortium that bought out Kirin's 30-percent stake in San Miguel (Malaysia) and now sits on the San Miguel board. News of his appointment to the board was even posted by opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim on Facebook, creating a virtual online discussion.

Mahathir's son, then, had to explain to the press San Miguel's diversification strategy, noting that the revenue mix of the conglomerate would soon change dramatically (hopefully so for him) and that San Miguel's stake in San Miguel Brewery and that beverages would contribute less than 15 percent of the group-wide sales by next year.

While San Miguel has been well known for its beer, it is now also into oil refinery, power distribution, power generation, banking, toll roads and soon, into mining and airport development. *Boots C. Bumilao*

Noodle wars

IF YOU THINK the rivalry between boxers Manny Pacquiao and Manny Pangilinan has died down or is limited to the board room, think again.

A couple of days after it was learned that Petron, chaired by Ang, donated one million packets of instant noodles, it was announced that Indonesian noodle maker PT Indofood Sukses Makmur would also donate a million packets of instant noodles for the "Ondoy" relief program.

PT Indofood is a unit of the Salim family's First Pacific Co., which Pangilinan runs as its managing director. It manufactures the "Indomie" and "Supermi" lines that are popular in Indonesia.

With over two million noodle packets now being distributed in evacuation centers, Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral was prompted to appeal to all donors to lay off the tasty but nutritionally challenged staple, as noodles were already "coming out of the basement" ears."

Good thing none of the floodwaters have now subsided, or else we might have seen a competing tender for the purchase of another 50 rubber boats or more corporate helicopters rescuing people off rooftops. In the event, Ondoy survivors have become the beneficiaries of corporate competition. *Boots L. Lucas*

Speaking of helicopters...

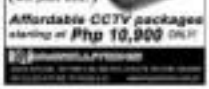
IF TOE HAPPEN to be one of the unfortunate victims of Ondoy's devastating floods, chances are you noticed two choppers busily criss-crossing Metro Manila's skies in the wake of Ondoy.

These brand-new units were the latest addition to the fleet of Asian Aerial Inc, who lent his air assets to the humanitarian and relief missions of the Army to bring food and sundries to inundated and isolated areas in Marikina, Cainta, Pasig and parts of Bicol.

Despite the fact that Rajah's other love, Philippine Airlines, is trading on the corporate ropes, his helicopters were used to distribute relief goods, medicine and blankets to an estimated 20,000 families in evacuation centers, courtesy of the Ten-Ten Foundation, Rotarian Rebecca and ORI. Also provided were 17,000 cases of bottled water and the three mobile water filtering stations for thousands of Marikina residents.

One site only unwise that Tenn generously may have come from his land-squatters with Ondoy as the streets around his palatial Santa Rosa Heights compound were inundated under at least eight feet of water at the height of the storm. Of course, Tan-Ad Medikit is also the base of operations of Fortune Tobacco.

One minute per the total contributions of the group is around P75 million. *Dimitri L. Lucas*



PHILAM LIFE

We are here to help you.

Philamlife extends its deepest sympathies to those affected by Typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng. We salute the courage and tenacity of our countrymen in these trying times. In our own small way, we would like to help.

If you are a Philamlife policyholder affected by these natural disasters, you can call our hotline number listed below or visit the Philamlife branch nearest you. Our branch officers are standing by to promptly attend to your needs. Your claims and policy loans shall be processed on high priority.

We are also extending the grace period from 31 days to 61 days of the premium payments on traditional policies due on September 1 to October 30, 2009 of Philamlife policyholders residing in calamity areas.

Hotline (02) 528 - 5453

Creating Waves of Talent and Opportunity

PLDT enables CICT's Convergence 2009, promoting education, investment, and employment in key cities

It was a historic meeting of innovative minds at the office of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) recently in Bifiman. Around Day Two was the launch of a major government project that would take CICT on the road in three "waves" across the country to stimulate growth and employment in our key cities, offering alternative cities for BPO industry investors.

The first wave took us Metro Manila, Metro Laguna and Metro Cavite in June and July, the second wave covered Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Iligan City, and Bohol in August and September, and the third wave Bacolod, Pampanga Central, Cagayan De Oro and Iloilo with a mix of career opportunities and skills training.

The road show kicked off in the CICT headquarters at UP Bifiman campus with a multi-site video conference and panel discussion. PLDT enabled the live video conferencing among the next wave cities, powering up six of the ten key cities, a testament to PLDT's unparalleled infrastructure. The different representatives and from present at Bifiman were able to interact with their counterparts in the biggest nationwide virtual conference across the archipelago through the PLDT Satellite facilities in Davao, Pampanga and Cebu, the State facility in Lipa via the Advance Contact Solutions (ACS), DPL facilities in Metro Cavite and Bifiman where TeleTech and the Bifiman Provincial Capitol, respectively, were the venue partners.

Next Wave Innovations

Convergence 2009 aims to promote the Philippines' "Cyber Corridor" which consists of the fast-emerging BPO-IT location cities also known as "Next Wave Cities".

The CICT is working double-time on this effort to create momentum for future employment opportunities. With a 120,000-strong workforce in the BPO- ICT industry, the government wants a surge of employment to offer up to a million jobs in this industry by 2010. That means creating 400,000 new jobs. This is possible with the Next Wave Cities' participation, with more cities offering business incentives and employing thousands of fresh graduates.

The industry posted $6B in revenue in 2008. The resounding message during the event was reassuring - despite what could be described as the world's global economic shut-down, the Philippines' ICT-BPO industry continues to grow.

During the event, each city's representative pledged their support in offering their own specific agendas and locale lure to boost ICT business in their area.

New Cities of Promise

CICT commissioner Ernesto Cruz urged private cyber-cops, human capital development, infrastructure and information infrastructure.

Recently, speaker CICT Secretary Ray Anthony Roxas-Chua III gave a bright picture of government's projects and recent developments. True to its promise of creating conducive environment, the team of ICT has hit another location with the opening of the first BPO's done in Daet, Camarines Norte. It was noted during the event that the six Next Wave Cities also offered more than just ideal BPO site but accessibility and scenic travel hotspots as well.

CICT Commissioner Consuelo A. Perez presented the government's ICT-E program to develop human capital for the ICT industry, arming students and citizens with skills by offering courses like programming, Web page development, Java, Linux, and more.

The Next Gold Mine

Apart from providing employment for new graduates, Commissioner Perez added that the government also seeks to develop "a critical mass of world-class IT knowledge workers", tapping into yet another gold mine of potential by training call-center and senior citizens, career drifters, out-of-school youth, and stay-at-home mothers who are returning to the workforce.

Avinash Vaswhani, Chairman and CEO of Thinkon, provided a global snapshot of the BPO industry, highlighting the country's resiliency to the current economic crisis. He extolls the Philippine talent pool and its "secret ingredients: cultural affinity with the U.S., the strong and sound work ethic of the youth, reactive socio-political and legal structure, available office space and reliable connectivity" as the reasons behind its success.

Vaswhani also went on to explain that the Philippines makes 52% of its BPO industry revenue in voice services, with automation, transcription, engineering, and back office processes taking up smaller shares of the pie.

He stressed that the Philippines must maintain its strength in voice, but also must develop its engineering, Finance and Accounting services to gain more of the global market share in BPO.

The New Wave Cities ICT Councils & Govt Officials graced the occasion through PLDT's Videocom.

Century Peak to invest P10B in RP mine project

By Doris C. Dumlao

SINGAPORE-BASED FIRM CENTURY PEAK METALS Holdings Corp., which listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) by way of introduction yesterday, plans to invest around P10 billion in an integrated mining operation in the Philippines.

Century Peak chairman and president Wilfredo Hong said yesterday in a briefing after the listing ceremony at the PSE that the company plans to put up a nickel iron smelting plant and has seven properties for mineral exploration.

"We're looking more properties for the mineral area. We are also looking at different kinds of minerals [besides] nickel, like chromite, iron, gold and copper," Hong said.

The first phase of Century Peak's project, which will start this year, will cost P2 billion. Once operational, the company will pump in another $100 million. Over the long run, it plans to invest a total of P20 billion.

He said putting up the infrastructure alone would require billions.

"Exporting on the[nickel] is quite difficult compared to mainland," he explained.

For its initial business, Hong said the company was projecting an initial capacity of 15,000 to 20,000 tons for the first phase of its operation. Next go up to 200,000 tons.

Century Peak holds Mineral Production Sharing Agreement (MPSA) for close to 4,000 hectares on Bongao Islands. It is presently operating on 860 to 700 hectares.

The company is the holding firm of Century Peak Corp., the nickel-mining company it fully acquired in March 2008, and Century Iron Ore Group Limited, Inc., where it has a 50 percent stake.

Century Peak is the newest company to debut on the exchange this year without undertaking an initial public offering of shares. Hong said the company as the land no need to sell new shares to the public.

Century Peak yesterday listed via the PSE's make-board by way of introduction about 2.82 billion common shares of the mining firm at a par value of P.1 per share. The company started trading under the stock trading symbol "CPM" under the mining and oil sector.

Listing by way of introduction refers to the listings of securities that were already issued or held by investors. No public sale is conducted.

East Asia ... From page B1

mies intellectual body' that would guide policymakers in finding common ground to hasten economic integration and strengthen cooperation in the region.

"Idea aspires to be the foremost research institution where products would supplement and complement those of global institutions like the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank," Ikehata said.

Eria, which was established in June 2008, held the second yearly meeting of its governing board here on Monday.

Hidetoshi Nishimura, Eria executive director, said the institute was working on a master plan for Asia. The plan aims to maximize industrialization through free trade, upgrading of roads and other needed infrastructure.

"This highlights the importance of providing better business environment and to deepen investment and infrastructure, trade and logistics in the region," Nishimura explained.

Asean groups 10 countries, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar (Burma) and Vietnam.

Although members of Asean usually differ from each other in terms of economic development and political systems, the countries still nurture the hope of integration in the mold of the European Union.

According to Ikehata, "Ultimate integration is nothing."

While trade with the rest of the world shrank by 13.4 percent to $692.2 billion in 2009 compared to the 2007 level, Asean trade grew by 17.3 percent to $11.1 billion, Ikehata said.

"Our emphasis on encouraging the development of small and medium enterprises is fostering trade," he said. "We are confident that [Enterprise] growth will continue."

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS SOFTWARES

The National Food Authority (NFA), through its Office Procurement Committee intends to apply the sum of PY 2,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract to supply and delivery of the following softwares:

Number of Softwares	Softwares
20	MS Office 2007 Upgrade Editions
4	MS Office 2007 Upgrade Editions Academic OE
4	MS Visio 2007 Standard Edition
1	MS Visio 2007 Professional Edition
1	MS Project 2007 Standard Edition
1	MS Project 2007 Professional Edition
1	MS Project Server 2007 Standard CAL Edition
1	MS Project Management 2007 Standard CAL Edition

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening. Delivery of the Goods is required not later than 30 calendar days after receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all interested bidders, whether single or joint venture, from the list of pre-qualified contractors in the NFA for the CY 2009. Only contractors with satisfactory performance rating and not blacklisted by the NFA are allowed to participate.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the AWARDS DECISION UNIT and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P1,000.00.

Schedule and venue of activities are as follows:

Pre-Bid Conference	October 14, 2009	10:00 am	NFA Board Room 4th Floor, Philsugin Bldg., South Avenue
Submission of Bids	October 21, 2009	9:30 am to 10:45 am	
Opening of Bids	October 21, 2009	10:45 am	

All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's/manager's check, bank draft/guarantee confirmed by a universal or commercial bank, irrevocable Letter of Credit (LC) issued by a universal or commercial bank	Two percent (2%)
Surety bond callable on demand issued by a surety or insurance company duly certified by the Insurance Commission as authorized to issue such security	Five percent (5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to above

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity – NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Project Name – VARIOUS SOFTWARES
Address – Philsugin Bldg., South Avenue Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone/Fax No. – 920-2150
Mobile Phone – 0908-4120730
E-mail address – nfabac_nfa@yahoo.com
Website – www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) PEDRO L. HERNANDEZ, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

PCO - October 7, 2009

Universal McCann Philippines strengthens talent pool

Universal McCann Philippines announces the appointment of **Alvin M. Bangay** as Assistant Vice President taking on two concurrent roles: as Globe Telecom AOR Director and UM Investment Director, exercising management oversight over UM's media buying operations.

Bangay brings to UM over 13 years of industry experience which began with an account management stint at Saatchi before shifting his career towards media specialization at Basic Advertising and moving on to JWT, where he was part of the team that launched WPP Mindshare Philippines. At Mindshare, Bangay handled various regional and local accounts like Ford Motor, Shell Pilipinas, IBM and oversaw the media AOR assignment for Warner-Lambert/Pfizer. In 2003, Bangay moved to Zenith Optimedia to lead the Nestle account where McCann spotted his talent while working with him as one of Nestle's club agencies.

Prior to joining Universal McCann however, Bangay took a detour for a year to become General Manager of Euro Asia Media Group, the production company that created, developed, and produced branded content shows "Camera Café" and "U Women", aired in GMA 7 and QTV 11. With this hands-on experience in branded content development, he brings to UM key insights that will enable UM clients to explore opportunities in this emerging media trend.

Bangay's appointment strengthens UM's pool of talent resources, and according to Universal McCann's Managing Director Dino Lacsina, "With the breadth of experience that Alvin has in the media industry I am certain that he will add great value to our Universal McCann team in further evolving our capabilities as an innovative media organization."

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

As of October 6, 2009

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

October 6, 2009 Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1.000000	1.000000	46.7000
Japan	Yen	0.010711	0.010711	0.5003
United Kingdom	Pound	1.599672	1.599672	74.7194
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.128972	0.128972	6.0242
Switzerland	Franc	0.934142	0.934142	43.6384
Canada	Dollar	0.947106	0.947106	44.2437
Singapore	Dollar	0.690013	0.690013	32.2326
Australia	Dollar	0.889656	0.889656	41.5564
Bahrain	Dinar	2.655621	2.655621	124.0324
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.266418	0.266418	12.4471
Kuwait	Dinar	3.489121	3.489121	163.0000
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.292417	0.292417	13.6595
Thailand	Baht	0.029977	0.029977	1.4001
UAE	Dirham	0.272127	0.272127	12.7123
EU	Euro	1.494848	1.494848	69.8249
Korea	Won	0.000855	0.000855	0.0399
China	Yuan	0.146487	0.146487	6.8431
Taiwan	Dollar	0.030000	0.030000	1.4013
Switzerland	Franc	0.934142	0.934142	43.6384
India	Rupee	0.021430	0.021430	1.0011
Australia	Dollar	0.889656	0.889656	41.5564
New Zealand	Dollar	0.693187	0.693187	32.3823
Sweden	Krona	0.140000	0.140000	6.5398
Kuwait	KD Dollar	3.489121	3.489121	163.0000

StarTek to hire 240 more staff by yearend

By Abigail L. Ho

BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING FIRM StarTek is hiring 240 more employees before year's end, to add to its existing 860-strong workforce.

In a statement yesterday, StarTek managing director Ed Mallot said the company aimed to fill 1,100 seats this year, as it also targeted to expand its customer base.

"Aside from our goal of filling 1,100 seats by end of the year, we are working to acquire new clients for this facility," he said. "We have had a great year, increasing the number of clients we service and full-time employees."

With StarTek's 7,200-square-meter Makati City facility almost filled to capacity, StarTek senior vice president for business development Mary Beth Lemoh said the 800-seat site was now looking at setting up satellite facilities, most likely in nearby provinces.

"We're evaluating expansion options. Those options include provincial locations as well as locations throughout the National Capital Region," she said.

StarTek in May secured a five-year contract to provide various customer support and technical services to American telecommunications company Cincinnati Bell.

See customer management, StarTek will help Cincinnati Bell with sales, installation, care, technical support and retention programs.

For the technical support side, services to be rendered include hosted self-managed outsourcing infrastructure and application services. These cover interactive voice response, virtual queuing, voice over Internet protocol phone service, workforce management and quality assurance.

StarTek has around 9,000 seats spread over 20 sites in the United States, Canada, Costa Rica and the Philippines, with agents providing high-value voice and non-voice services to its clients.

From page B2

branded image over the last few months.

The most visible among recent changes to the bank is its new "infinity loop" logo, which was designed to look like the only hint of a swinging chapter, it's unclear if king died has anything to do with this design, but reception has been positive among its clientele, who welcomed the demise of the old "four-cornered" design.

According to executives, the bank hired the services of a Malaysian consulting firm that interviewed "hundreds" of clients to help them change the bank's previously mothball image.

It goes without saying, of course, that the **cost of changing the signage at all the bank's** branches, as well as little things like IDs, business cards and stationery will reach millions of pesos, reflecting the bank's philosophy that no one has to spend money to make money.

Speaking of the bank's board, apart from new chair Carlos "Bo" Ejercito and president Ramon Sy, CCPB is also steered by a motley assortment of personalities that include former Maybank Phils. vice chair Jose "Jerome" Policarpio Jr., Federation of Philippine Industries chair Jesus Arranza and Isabelo Estavillo, who is the legal counsel/trustee of SM president Hanson Ang.

Whether this renewed push will succeed in reviving the bank's fortunes, however, **only time will tell.** Sharon L. Lozon

BizBuzz

Acts of God' and internal jump priming

DARING TIMES OF CRISES, is yours to be within a boss-to-boss employee.

In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Ondoy that ravaged many parts of the metropolis, mainstream Development Bank of the Philippines handed out cash assistance of P10,000 each to all its employees, whether they were directly affected by the flooding or not. This was on top of the emergency lending window that the DBP had extended to those hit by the storm. As many overseas-style opportunist' avail the post-Ondoy season, charity begins at home.

The phrase "act of God" also became a post-Ondoy buzzword due to the destruction of cars submerged in floodwaters, as not all insurance policies contained this basic, partner provision that would have given only protection cover against horse manure. To the surprise of many car owners, only those who had this key provision in their policies will be spared the painful act of forking out hefty sums for the repair of their waterlogged cars. Doris G. Bersales

UCPB joins makeover wave

THEY PEOPLE may have evolved, but the government-controlled United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) has quietly phased in its re-

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Hope for the Victims of Typhoon "Ondoy":
APEC Plans extends a Helping Hand

Many lives were lost, properties destroyed, breaking the hearts of many Filipinos. APEC Plans opens its heart to our fellowmen who were affected by typhoon "Ondoy"

APEC knows that these are trying times.
To extend our helping hand, we reach out to our planholders through our

Policy Loan Assistance

that can address their immediate domestic requirements and assist them in rebuilding their homes.
Proceeds shall be readily available on the 5th day

Also, to assist them further we have extended the following:

- Office Hours from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm
- Grace Period from 60 days to 90 days for plans with due dates falling on Aug. 26, 2009 Oct. 5, 2009

So we can respond to your need immediately, please submit the following:

- Original copy of Policy Contract and insurance certificate
- Original copy of Certificate of Full Payment
- Photocopy of 2 primary ID's (passport, company ID, SSS/GSIS, Driver's License, TIN, postal ID, Senior Citizen ID)

apec PLANS

You may file your request at any of our Sales offices:

Makati Sales Office: 18th Floor, The Peak Tower, L.P Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Manila Sales Office: 3rd Floor ETY Building, 484 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila
For inquiries you may call the Customer Action Center at 02 816-4000

MOTORING

E-mail: motoring@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Cesar D. Hangarang

Your fingers 'caught' in the act

By Yeng R. Salazar

Anything that takes the driver's focus away from the wheel is dangerous

OUR FINGERS ARE versatile—they can lead us from point A to point B on the steering wheel. And with the advent of the cellular phone and SMS technology, our fingers enable us to communicate anywhere we may be. But some things are just not meant to be done at the same time.

Texting and driving is a potential case in point.

There were 160 road accidents related to cell phone use in 2004, 42 in 2005, 91 in 2006, 80 in 2007, and 79 in 2008.

Dodjy Jacobo, Land Transportation Office traffic safety division chief, who cited this from the Philippine National Police Highway Patrol Group data, added that actual figures may very well be much higher, as such accidents may be underreported.

Britain's Transport Research Laboratory came out with a study that says reading text messages from your mobile phone while driving is more dangerous than driving drunk or under the influence of drugs.

The reaction time of people texting as they drive is 35 percent, while those who had consumed the legal limit of alcohol, or taken cannabis, fell by 21 percent and 12 percent respectively, according to the study.

Dangers magnified

In the Philippines, the country known as the text capital of the world, the dangers of texting while driving are magnified correspondingly.

The Automobile Association Philippines, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. and the University of the Philippines National Center for Transportation Studies have conducted several Road Safety Conferences, one of which was themed "Towards the Formulation of an Effective Road Safety Bill."

The Road Safety Act, distributed by these three organizations to the media, declared a 60-point comprehensive road safety policy that included banning of cellular phones while driving or riding a motorcycle. It says that an operator of a motor vehicle is a motorcycle who holds a cellular telephone to, or in the immediate proximity of, the operator's ear while the motor vehicle is in motion is presumed to be engaging in a cell. Drivers of emergency vehicles, law enforcement authorities and a person reporting a reckless or negligent behavior are exempted from the policy.

If caught texting, there are a number of penalties, including the suspension of a driver's license for a period of one week.

Dangerous

"Anything that takes the driver's focus away from the wheel is dangerous," Jacobo said.

Mandy Edrajan, AAP director for motor racing and road advocacy said: "Texting while driving is dangerous and can be fatal. Asking drivers not to text while driving will not affect the cell phone industry in any meaningful way since a huge majority of cell phone users do not drive."

JP Tanoco, owner of the Tanoco Racing School, said: "Where one is among the top five causes of accidents worldwide, but even a boomer is a good video because the concentration is taken away from the road."

The female study cohorts was coordinated by motoring group RAC Foundation, who found that the ability to stay in lanes or maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front was worse for drivers who were using their phones while driving than for drivers under the influence of cannabis.

TRL senior human factors researcher Nick Reed said drivers who texted were distracted by taking their hand off the wheel, by trying to read the small text on the phone display and by looking about how they would write their message.

"This combination of factors result of in the impairments to reaction time and vehicle control that place the driver at a greater risk than having exceeded alcohol to the legal limit for driving," he said.

PHONE use is among the top five causes of accidents worldwide.

Don't drive and text

One conclusion researchers made about why texting was so dangerous was the length of time it would take to complete a message while driving.

The TRL said that composing a text message finished the related task 82 seconds, in which time a car could travel half a mile while town centre speed limits and even a mile while motorway speed limits.

Nearly half of all 16- to 24-year-olds admitted to texting as they drove, a separate survey by the RAC Foundation discovered.

The TRL study selected 17 people from the 16- to 24-year-old age group to take part in a simulated road test, in which they were asked to read, write and ignore text in a variety of roads.

"The participants in this study were filmed unbeknown to their view that texting-driving was the most dangerous action on the road," said RAC director Stephen Glaister.

He said the research closely showed that a motorist who was texting was significantly more impaired than a motorist who had the legal limit for alcohol.

Eli subcontractor investigating a Southern California commuter train engineer who ran through a red signal and into an oncoming freight train, killing 25 and injuring more than 130, have confirmed that he was text messaging while working on the day of the fatal collision.

3 automakers extend help to customers

MANY VEHICLES WERE DAMAGED BY Typhoon "Ondoy" but three major automakers—Toyota, Mitsubishi and Honda—have extended their support to their related customers.

Toyota Motor Philippines will provide 40 percent discount on engine ECU and 10 percent on selected flood-related parts as well as 20 percent discount on labor.

"We will extend dealer services to accommodate a larger volume of customers," said TMP in a statement. "We have assigned special help desks in our dealerships."

To facilitate the servicing of Toyota vehicles, it is best for the owners to clarify the issues of their insurance policy coverage and prepare the necessary documentation. They have to contact an authorized Toyota dealer for proper scheduling of vehicle inspection, assessment and repairs.

Full restoration

For its part, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. said its Lutan dealers will focus on extending assistance to its customers whose vehicles were submerged under flood waters.

MMPC Vice President for Customers Service Department Rommel Zafra said in a statement: "Our Metro Manila and nearby Luzon provincial dealers are now in full force to assist flood affected customers to ensure the full restoration of their vehicles. However, as we anticipate a big number of vehicles to proceed to our service centers, we ask our customers to bear with us given the current capacity of our dealer service facilities. But right now our dealers are taking the initiative to ensure additional coverage areas just to accommodate these vehicles."

Zafra advised affected vehicle owners not to attempt to start the vehicle's disconnect the battery, and call up the nearest Mitsubishi dealer for assistance.

Meanwhile, Honda Cars Philippines Inc. is offering 30 percent subsidy on all parts, lubricants and 10 percent on labor charges for flood-related repairs.

The aftermath of the calamity has brought influx of vehicles for repair across Metro Manila dealerships.

After the storm has passed, we have projected a significant increase in service intake of inundated vehicles. Unfortunately, such vast demand has exceeded the capacity of our dealerships, particularly Metro Manila branches. We appeal for everyone's kind understanding of the situation. Since our dealerships can only accommodate so much cars, we advise our affected customers to kindly call Honda's Toll Free Hotline, 1-800-1080-HONDA (46632) and make an appointment before bringing vehicles to the dealerships to avoid inconveniences," said Hideaki Shimizu, president and general manager of HCPI.

More service people

At present, Honda regularly monitors its dealership carwash to assess the actual situation. "We are mobilizing more service people to assist dealers in any way possible. In anticipating the surge in service intake, we have ordered in advance and even expedited the deliveries of parts to ensure availability of supply," said Danny Pedro, customer service division head of HCPI.

To prevent further damage to the vehicle, Honda advises immediate disconnection of the battery in case of no battery yet, complete removal of battery from the vehicle. It also warned affected owners to avoid switching of ignition or starting of engine to prevent electrical short circuit. For vehicles completely submerged with floodwaters, it is best to clean the car, especially the engine bay and air-conditioning unit, with clean water to prevent further rust formation and corrosion.

Thank God we brought the D-Max

Text and photos by
Charles E. Bolton

IT WAS ALREADY dark despite the fact it was only 2 in the afternoon. Then came the heavy rain, spurred on wondrobold like a stream of water coming from a fireman's hose.

The road wasn't a source of comfort either, as knee-deep flooding have appeared in several sections of the coastal highway that runs the length of the Iloilo province in the island of Panay.

Understandably, we had to continue driving—no matter how slow—in order keep to our schedule.

As we contemplate our cost in good fortune that afternoon, we thought, hey this was not included in our itineraries.

Indeed, the approaching typhoon "Ondoy" had a different plan for us that day.

Psyche

For days, we could hear ourselves for the "team conquers Island of Panay" event keeping in mind that we will be able to tour a number of historic and scenic spots in the island and stay at the Shangri-La's Boracay Resort and Spa.

Loading in Iloilo City, Isuzu Philippines Corp. divided the participants into groups. One group was assigned the D-Max pickups. Generated AUVs for the other group and the sedans for the Mu-X SUVs. Incidentally, all these locally assembled vehicles were all shipped by Magwa Enterprises.

From Iloilo City, each group took three separate routes, which, after enjoying respective discoveries must meet up again at the Kinabuhay Lounge of Shangri-La in Caticlan, Aklan.

Assigned with the D-Max group, the author took the 227-kilometer-long drive that covered the north and western side of the island via the highway connecting Iloilo, Antique and Aklan.

But what was supposed to be a long but fun sidetrip visit to Miagao Church, a 222-year-old church that is now included in the Unesco World Heritage List, a pasalubong evening shop in Bugasong, Antique and an exciting eco-cruise at Bugang River in Pandan (also in Antique)—became something of a race against time as we had to push pause the fun-fare activities as we could reach Caticlan by 7 p.m.

But while typhoon Ondoy certainly revised our itinerary, one thing remained constant to our minds: when things get rough on the road, it's comforting to know that you're driving a diesel pickup.

Isuzu's D-Max personifies the type of vehicle that one would prefer to be driving during inclement weather or when going to an unfamiliar destination. It's rugged built and proven high ever-most road obstacles.

Updated

"The D-Max, which is now updated for 2010, is even more safer to drive, thanks to ABS with EBD feature, the addition of chrome and brighter fog lamps, step boards and step tube that offer better traction. LED-equipped high mount stop lamp, as well as back-up sensor," enumerated IPC Senior Vice President Art Redondo.

Indeed, with its 2.5-liter ground clearance, high-torque 16-valve DOHC I-TEC diesel engine and 30-inch, all-terrain tire all-season tire for the 4x2 variant here, we felt confident that whatever challenge we might encounter, the D-Max would be able to tackle it.

And we did. We encountered more muddy and unpaved stretches many times but despite this and the bad weather, we still made it on time at the Multiday Lounge of Shangri-La's Boracay Resort and Spa. Other vehicles were also able to breathe collectively a sigh of relief.

But Ondoy wasn't finished with us, yet. As we were preparing for our departure on the third day, the typhoon intensified and forced us to stay for one more day in the island's most exclusive resort and spa, which some of us thought of it, is not something to talk about.

DURING THESE times, you've still there yourself be driving the D-Max.

THE UPDATED 2010 Isuzu D-Max pickups lurked down town's Iloilo River Esplanade.

THE MORNING started out fine, but things got stormy by afternoon.

Electric car dreaming

ONE MILLION ELECTRIC CARS ON the road by 2015—this is not an electric dream, but a goal set by United States President Barack Obama as part of US efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming.

It isn't only to transfer that electric vehicles (EVs) are seen as the future generation of automobiles. In 10 years, EVs will represent as much as 10 percent of the European market, forecasts BT product director says. At the Frankfurt Motor Show last month, Renault CEO Carlos Ghosn, who also heads Japan's Nissan Motor Co., presented four EVs that would be available on the market in 2011 to 2012.

Ghosn preceded that with the introduction August of an all-electric hatchback, the Nissan Leaf. He said the Leaf will be sold in the United States, Europe and Japan in late 2010 at an affordable price. At the 2009 Tokyo Motor Show this month, Honda Motor Co. is expected to display a prototype of its own EV.

All electric

Last June, Mitsubishi Motors Corp. launched in Japan its all-electric minicar, the i-MIEV, which was exhibited at the 2007 Tokyo Motor Show. To date, the world's largest car manufacturer by sales volume, plans to introduce a plug-in hybrid gasoline-electric car in 2012 for corporate customers before the year ends. General Motors has recently emerged from bankruptcy protection, will launch in the United States in 2010 the $40,000 Chevy Volt, a plug-in electric hybrid car with a back-up gasoline-engine source. Aiming to hybrid housing the Hatch badge will be released by 2011 in 2012.

All these, however, were preempted by BYD Co., a Beijing-based maker in China that was originally a manufacturer of lithium-ion batteries for cell phones and laptop computers. In December 2008, BYD started selling a plug-in hybrid, the F3DM, which was promptly displayed at the Shanghai Motor Show last April. China aims to become the world's largest producer of EVs in its ambition to achieve global

ON THE ROAD

Jude Sevilla Mendoza

competitiveness as well as environmental goals.

A distinction must be made between EVs, gasoline-electric hybrids and plug-in gasoline-electric hybrids. While gasoline-electric hybrids like the Toyota Prius can switch between the batteries and run on a combination of gasoline and internally generated electricity, plug-in hybrids like the Chevy Volt can mostly run electricity stored by lithium-ion batteries that are recharged via an electric socket and a backup internal combustion engine to charge the battery when it is depleted. EVs like the Mitsubishi i-MIEV and Nissan Leaf are all-electric, running purely on battery power.

No smoke

Ghosn likes to point out that EVs are zero emission cars unlikely vehicle hybrids and internal combustion engines are low emitters. But so are carmakers—citing the limited driving range (typically 160 km) of EVs on a full charge, issues battery recharging networks and questions about the safety of lithium-ion batteries that are prone to fire, set to unveil last December 2009—no hesitant about EVs. Instead of EVs, they are focusing on a hydrogen fuel cell-based technology that removes the need for heavy batteries.

Dr. Ian counter with studies showing that most urbanites use cars for less than 100 km a day. Battery-cost improvements in battery technology, lightweight electric motors and auxiliary electrical systems plus improved tire technology mean that recent-year-old EVs can be retrofitted with a battery pack that will allow a range of 200 km to 300 km on a full charge. The Tesla Roadster's top speed is 200 kph and can travel nearly 300 km on a single charge. The Tesla Roadster's top speed is 200 kph and can travel nearly 300 km on a single charge. The Tesla Roadster's top speed is 200 kph and can travel nearly 300 km on a single charge.

while GM claims that the Volt can get 100 km per liter. Nissan says that the Leaf gets 134 under EPA guidelines.

$25B

The US Department of Energy has committed a $25-billion loan program to jump-start the development and production of fuel-efficient, battery-powered cars amid concerns that advances in electric car battery technology by Japan (Panasonic, NEC, Hitachi, Sanyo), Electric and GS Yuasa), China (BYD Co.) and South Korea (Samsung SDI, LG Chem and SK Energy) may cede the EV and hybrid car market to foreign competitors.

Whom, the only carmaker investing big time in EVs, was loaned $126 billion by the Department of Energy to produce more than 150,000 EVs a year at its plant in Smyrna, while the French partner Renault has teamed up with Better Place Inc. to build a battery-leasing system in Israel and Denmark for electric car owners to save them the huge upfront investment (about $40,000). Better Place is also setting up thousands of recharging points (one others drivers can swap a depleted battery for a fresh one in a few minutes, but as cell phone users are charged for minutes, subscribing drivers will be billed for the miles they drive each month).

Clearly, Nissan is betting that although EVs will eventually develop a bigger market than hybrids. See the experiment's ends, let's hope so.

Tips for water-damaged vehicles

THE OUTLAWRY OF TY phoon "Ondoy" and the destruction it left in its wake, especially in the hard-hit areas, left vehicles severely damaged by water and overturned by the current.

Ford Group Philippines and its network of dealers have stepped up efforts to respond to affected customers and to the growing number of requests for vehicle repair.

"Ford customers involved in the devastating situations of flooding in and around Manila, Philippines. This includes coordinating a response to the immediate needs of our employees and dealer network as quickly as possible, and with appropriate measures," says Aisha Sibonilla, FGP assistant vice president for Corporate Communications. "While urged to receiving of Ford/Mazda vehicles, we harness and are experiencing an increase of servicing appointments resulting from the devastating flood within the past days and weeks. We are confident that our team and dealer network can accommodate our customers' needs with the highest level of service and quality as expected."

To assist motorists whose vehicles have been damaged by water, FGP's technical and service experts offer this advice:

1 **Do not attempt to start a flooded vehicle until thorough inspection and cleaning have been conducted.** Try to disconnect battery terminals starting with the negative terminal.

2 **Take immediate steps to dry the vehicle as much as possible to reduce the time the components are exposed to water.**

3 **Beyond the highest level of water exposure on the flooded vehicles.** This will aid a qualified technician in the evaluation process as well as taking the necessary steps to correct any damage.

4 **Contact any of our 20 Ford/Mazda dealerships to arrange** for an inspection and evaluation of the flooded vehicle. Move information and needed details can be found at www.ford.com.ph.

5 **Contact your insurance carrier** or agent and promptly report the exposure of your vehicle to water or flood. Have basic information ready such as your name, address, contact numbers (landline/cellular phone), car make and plate number, policy number and whether policy cover "acts of god."

6 **Have a qualified technician** or inspect all mechanical components, including the engine, transmission, axles, brakes and fuel system for water contamination.

• Flush and replace all fluids, oils and lubricants, and replace all filters and gaskets for components exposed to water. While in vehicle may drive only flush that have experienced water intrusion, extended interval requirements to enter will increase the level of damage to the engine and other vehicle components.

• Conduct a thorough cleaning of heater parts and repacking of bearings, particularly for rear-end drive vehicles. In front-wheel drive vehicles, bearings are sealed.

• Inspect all wiring and electrical components exposed to water. Affected major components are not protected from contact water exposure, extended flood exposure may have lingering effects. In some instances, it difficult due to some exposure will not surface earlier than 90 days, when computer and other electrical components begin to corrode.

7 **After thorough inspection, detail the interior and exterior compartment of the vehicle.**

BUSINESS

RP not on US firms' investment radar

By Abigail L. Ho

AMERICAN FIRMS OPERATING IN THE 10 members of Southeast Asian Nations are not likely to expand here in the country, opting instead to make more investments in Vietnam and Indonesia.

According to the Asean Business Outlook Survey 2009 conducted by the American Chambers of Commerce in the region, Vietnam was the most popular destination for investment dollars as named by 32 percent of the 300 executives polled. Indonesia garnered 28 percent of the votes in this category.

Despite this, Asean member firms operating in the Philippines were among the most optimistic in terms of turning in higher-than-2009 results next year.

About 40 percent of respondents from both the Philippines and Vietnam, and 76 percent from Indonesia expected an increase in net income next year.

The most pessimistic were the respondents from Malaysia and Singapore, where only 20 percent and 27 percent, respectively, expected profits to increase in 2010.

Overall, 30 percent of all respondents saw an increase in net income next year, 9 percent anticipated a decline, and 17 percent saw no substantial change.

For this year, all of those polled projected losses to be in the double-digit level.

Of the respondents, only 10 percent expected an expansion in overall workforce, from 62 percent last year. Almost half, or 47 percent, foresaw employee levels to stay the same.

Above 62 percent of the respondents said the US recession would have negative impact on their companies.

Of those who recognized the impact of the recession, 64 percent felt the downturn would last between 1.2 and 1.8 months.

The Asean member states were seen as highly significant to American businesses due to factors of economic recovery (70 percent), limited growth opportunities in other regions (32 percent), and improvements in infrastructure (44 percent).

Only 4 percent of those polled felt that the Asean market would not be that important to their companies, moving forward.

MPIC purchase of 13.12% Meralco stake completed

By Doris C. Dumlao

INFRASTRUCTURE HOLDING firm Metro Pacific Investments Corp. yesterday completed its purchase of a 13.12 percent stake in power retailer Manila Electric Co. from affiliates for P18.3 billion.

MPIC bought the 144.38 million Meralco shares at P128 via a special block trade on the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

PGH Newfield Trust Fund, the retirement fund of telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., and New Gallant Ltd. sold 113.5 million shares, while the remainder was sold by Cirgan Ltd., representing First Pacific's direct shares.

MPIC said the purchase of this block of Meralco shares supported its position as one of the country's leading infrastructure companies.

Its Meralco interest complements existing investments in North Luzon Expressway, Maynilad Water Services and a number of hospitals.

The possible operational synergies in terms of Meralco's subscriber base, accessible data centers, wireless bill payments and transportation fleets are seen to enhance the customer response and speed up the coordination system within the MPIC group.

FirstGen raises capital to ₱7.2B

FIRST GEN CORP. PLANS TO INCREASE ITS authorized capital stock to P7.25 billion from P3.27 billion, in line with its stock rights offering worth about P3.5 billion.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, FirstGen said the proposed increase to authorized capital stock would be composed of 3.22 billion common shares with a par value of P1 each, and 1.5 billion voting preferred shares, with a par value of 10 centavos a piece.

The proceeds from the offer would be used to reduce debt and add to working capital.

FirstGen said the rights offering was an "equitable fundraising option because existing eligible shareholders will have the opportunity to subscribe their pro-rata shareholding in the company and thus not be subject to dilution."

Just last August, FirstGen increased its authorized capital stock to P1.27 billion from P1.65 billion.

Arra B. Perez

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

How to clean up after the floods–take it from an expert

You must scrub the floor–and the walls!–with disinfectant. If you rinse only with water, it will still smell

By Gwendolyn Su
Contributor

MY FAMILY AND I ARE experts when it comes to flooding. By this I mean that, for almost 10 years when we lived in a low part of Sta. Domingo St. in Quezon City, we experienced flooding inside the house at least once a year and, if I remember correctly, sometimes it was twice or even thrice a year.

The first time it happened we were in shock, but as it happened more and more often, it became routine. Here are some nuggets of wisdom that may help:

1. I learned that once the water reaches knee level, the gates can't be opened any more because of the water pressure. We thought we still had time to take the cars out the realized we were trapped. That time, our cars submerged. Make sure you know which area near your residence is considered higher ground and take your cars there early.

2. Do not despair to touch if your cars submerge. They can be fixed. It's expensive and it takes a long time for the smell to go away but it's not the end of the world. After the flood, just in the cars dry. We never sold/ade to use our Honda and Mitsubishi Lancer despite their having been half submerged in floodwaters.

3. I learned that heavy stuff, like the stereo and shelves, float. So every year (even then on, we would tie those heavy appliances like the tv, the big shelves with wedding souvenirs and knick-knacks, and my dad's collection of wine. How did we do that? Tie them to the windows.

4. Adrenalin will give you superpowers once you decide you're not afraid of a little water and start saving what you can. In my case, it was my collection of books. The books are not rare first editions but regular books. However, I love them and I'm not letting them. "Drown"! I was able to move and carry our heavy sofa powered by my body's own adrenalin hormones.

5. You can have fun in the midst of disaster so I took out my camera and starting taking pictures. It was to make everyone have a good laugh as we surveyed the chaos around us, the cockroaches and rats swimming by, the black inky specs of oily stuff occasionally floating around.

6. Apparently, to matter how much you're enjoying yourself frolicking in the water until seeing what you can, once the cold water reaches your chest (especially your nipples), you start to shiver and it gets hard to breathe. This is the time to give up and go upstairs.

7. If your electricity stays on, go to the switch box and turn off all the electric contacts/connections not upstairs.

8. Cleaning after the flood is a pain. Once the waters recede, you are left with mud/everywhere. The mud sticks so you have to get the hose and start using the scrub ring (someone pulse hosing). You just keep the water running and sweep, sweep, sweep like there's no tomorrow.

9. You must scrub the walls with disinfectant. If you only rinse with water, they will still smell. We started Lysol. Scrub, scrub, scrub like there's no tomorrow.

10. First time water got inside our house, we didn't know we had to use Lysol and that the drying process was super vital. So, after a few days, there was this unnerving smell. Later, we found mold growing everywhere! We had to unload the furniture and appliances to their assigned places and on the walls behind, there were molds. Yuck!

11. We were still able to use our tv/ that friend/refrigerator. Just clean and clean and dry and dry.

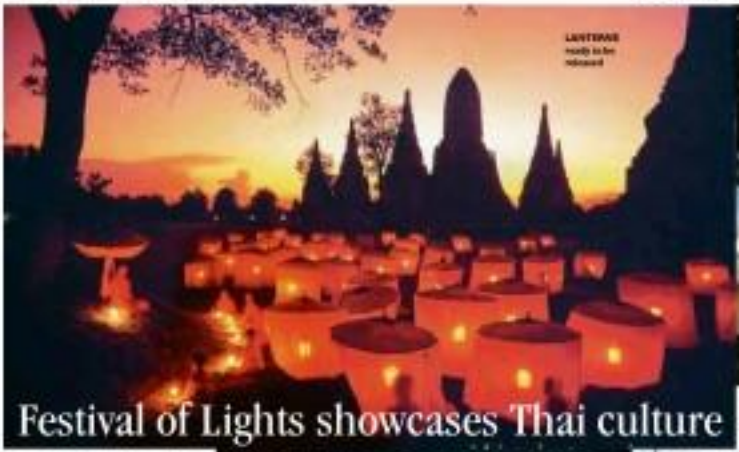
12. Once electricity is available, take out all

HOW TO D4

RECLINING Buddha, the upper pyramidal structure of the monastery—a small pavilion—housing it already in ruins

BELL-SHAPED principal chedi sits on an octagonal base.

HOMEGROWN Bangkok, the Grande Center Point complex combines a luxurious hotel and lavishly designed residential apartments.



LANTERNS ready to be released

Festival of Lights showcases Thai culture

NEXT WEST Thammayuttikai temple at the Chao Phraya riverbank opposite the Royal Palace

WE ATTENDED THE SPECTACULAR Festival of Lights on a full moon. Riven sedate with thousands of tiny flames, and the promise of everlasting romance, Loy Krathong is one of Thailand's most important festivals.

Our angel of the sky, Thai Airways' classy Boeing 777, descended gracefully at the ultra modern Suvarnabhumi Airport in the "City of Angels." An architectural marvel in itself, perhaps among the most luxurious airports in the world that showcases a symbiosis of cutting-edge progress and evocative Thai culture, this was just a prelude to the fabulous, educational and enlightening experience that was in orbit for our group with Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) executive director for Asean, Khun Pradit Intrakokier.

This trip, courtesy of Thai Airways domestic general manager, Wirod Chantavarodhon and the TAT, was headed by the brilliant and talented Pornrip Siddeenpaen, director for Singapore, Indonesia and Philippines. It was a week-long sweet filled with fantastic memories.

Our first home away from home: the luxurious Grande Centerpoint Hotel and Residences, a scant throw away from Central World Mall. The newly opened premiere address in the city is a brand-new landmark complete of conveniences and cosmopolitan style.

Posh rooms equipped with washing machines with dryer, microwave ovens and mini kitchens provide comfort and all the amenities you could wish for.

A well equipped fitness center, a breakfast spa offering aromatherapy massage and treatments sweet you as hors-d'oeuvre and coffee by Boo, the in-house coffee shop that offers an international menu plus Thai cuisine and a delightful bakery as well.

A heavenly night's rest prepared us all for the visit at the famed Chatuchak weekend market where every possible ware is being sold from clothes, furniture, food, souvenir items, household commodities, pets, antiques. You name it, they have it. This juxtaposition of the very old and most modern gadgets is truly consistent with Thai culture ... a savvy mix of the best and the brightest.

OUR GROUP assembles the latest toys floating lotus-wise in the gardens of the resort.

ZEN-MITTER-LOAD house used for the Maeinam river cruise, constructed from huge teak planks. This 100-year-old boat has been transformed into a floating hotel that journeys from Bangkok to Ayuthaya and back, recreating the path of Siam's royal processions.

A major highlight of our trip was our meeting with the honorable Weerasak Kowsurat, Thailand Minister of Tourism and Sports at his office. The gracious, good-looking minister shared with us media friends his insights on Thai tourism—which, he proudly says, continues to boom.

He was scheduled to attend the World Travel Congress in London that evening and re-shared how visitors from all continents repeatedly flock to Thailand which he attributes to the hospitality of his people.

As our point, our progenitor cousin, virtuoso Christine Bayrit, asked the minister where he studied at Harvard University. He said he was in Harvard from 1991-1992. Christine gamely swooned and excitedly told him: "I was there at the same time, since I got my degree in Film Production in Boston University that year."

This brought a big smile on the minister's handsome face. I then told the minister: "When known, sir, you may very well be the future prime minister of Thailand just like President Barack Obama, a Harvard graduate as well."

This was followed by a very exhilarating visit to the Babylon Sky Hotel with its revolving look-out and cozy bar on the 48th floor. Just imagine the fantastic view of the neon lights that illuminate the skyline. A delectable international buffet spread is also an attraction in Babylon Sky Hotel not to mention its excellent location for shoppers.

The next day was a significant trip down memory lane as we trooped to Ayuthaya, an absolutely must-go-to place, which was the former capital of the Thai kingdom for 417 years.

BUDDHIST temple along the river, glimpsed on our way to Bangkok

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Massive Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen

Story by VAL Photo/Graphics

Many ancient ruins and artworks can still be seen here, like the magnificent ruins of Phra Sukhon At Ayuthaya Historical Park, a vast stretch of historical sites included in Unesco World Heritage Sites since 1991.

We were formally welcomed by TAT manager and the local government over a superb lunch aboard a wooden boat along the river.

A visit to the Bang-Pa-In Palace, built by King Chulalongkorn, known as Rama V. The Great who met his Russian wife, who also had royal blood, while he visited the Russian, brought her back to Bangkok. This unique Cathedic gothic-designed church was dedicated to his wife whose images of Buddha are erected. Then it was time for our overnight cruise on board the Chao Phraya Maharaja rice barge, a giant floating hotel that shuttles between Bangkok and Ayuthaya daily and vice versa.

As we lounged to Barry White's smiled rendition of the song "Can't Get Enough of Your Love, Babe," our weekly group exchanged stories of love and laughter. It was a unique experience to travel through the city's waterways. For a while, I thought I was transported to Venice aboard a gondola. I only flat was a huge gondola as the river... and we stopped, thinking it was doing a short pause. Apparently, this is a regular half-way stop.

Well, passengers, we didn't move 'til 6 a.m. for Bangkok. When you can't fight them, join them, which is exactly what we did. We parted at 3 a.m.

HELLO Rochee and Elaine Seah join fellow, the giant Buddha.

MOI, TAM Airways' Mats Ousnas, Metro Society's Raul Manzano, Christine Bayrit, handsome former Tourism Minister Weerasak Kowsurat, Marlene Go and Pornrip Malaivongse

GROUP sales manager of Center Point Hotel Soiree Hadaranish, Mats Ousnas and Kasemsak Bhanomsaath of Bridges Travel Service.

Valeria Cavestany's animal farm

The Filipino-Spanish artist has created an artistic menagerie out of Aeta mythology

By John L. Silva
Contributor

AT THE OUTSET, THE LONG-tailed metal "Bakuraws" (giant) lizards, among the 40 animal creations by Valeria Cavestany look playful in their plodding way. They are smoothed in metal, lit from the inside and in the dark has a serene glow to them.

Three are folded clogs, spindly spiders, regal roosters, passive cats and rats, turtles, aristocratic turtles, stoic pigs and many others inhabiting Valeria's artistic menagerie. They seem like random choices for the metal pushed these particular animals because of the important role they play in ancient Philippine cosmology and myths.

The Aetas or Negritos, living only in forests, had the whole night sky to gaze at finding clues to what lay in store the next day. In Zambales, a full moon was a good time to open the rice granary, to celebrate the first rainbow and the first thunder.

A full moon was also the time to see the face of a hunter and his dog, emblematic of their own hunting lives. The Milky Way's path stretching throughout the sky was for them the silvery trail of the giant Pandakan or turtle and was an omen for a good harvest.

Many other tribes believed that the earth was held up by several posts with pigs located at the corner posts. Human cities say earthquakes happen because the pigs would often scratch giant sole barking in the area and in their fright would shake the earth.

Others thought rats that hatched caused the cities to panic exits. Meanwhile, spiders, if they came down from a ceiling and headed your direction, was pure misfortune, be it in love, harvest or travel.

Valeria's giant lizards are among the more captivating creatures both for their serpentine form and a folk story earlier still being observed today. An eclipse has the ancients (Aeta) in attendance because for them Bakuraws, the giant lizard in the sky, has swallowed it. Old timers though have a remedy passed down from the ancestors. When an eclipse occurred in Tarlac Town two years ago, the whole town was ready. Gunfire erupted, pans were banged and bells rung and all to people looked up in the immediate night shouting "upit is out... upit is out." After a few long minutes, the moon appeared again and the natives exclaimed joyfully that Bakuraws, frightened by the noise, relented, and spat the moon out.

Inner wisdom

The social density in Valeria's creatures is dire and malleable giving it a person feel: one is drawn inside their glowing bodies. Valeria describes this space as "... an inner wisdom, a place of spirituality, the soul."

The statement is striking for Valeria delves much to science and philosophy and geopolitics on her reading preferences and so begins her artistic deconstruction when she'll see picking up a paperback or molding an animal.

She believes that living in a world of information, where matter and energy seem separate, one might give pause in looking inward, to inside her glowing creatures, where there is the seamless collision of "...shadows and darkness ...a place of 'in lightenment.'"

Ironically for Valeria, darkness is where following occurs. Darkness she adds may have the universal dimension of ignorance and its humiliations, poverty. But it is in the darkness that we try to divine our choices in life, much of which, she adds, comes from folk myths and luck.

Her insight dovetails with yet another dwindling practice up in the highlands where Babaylans (shamans) will spot a live chicken to find markings and omens in the liver before a journey begins or a planned celebration goes through. This ritual, like other remaining rituals now catalogued in volumes of folklore, have a genius of archaeology to them. Fenn Digsbery, who penned the first European impressions of native cosmology in current video recordings of the last lethal rides, native ceremonies and taboos have survived in bibliography but mostly lore in daily practice.

It may come as relief to us that our lives today are not so governed by a lizard's appetite or a malevolent spider. Take the previous cat, for example. There are pages of lethal folklore she's and don'ts that admonish or allow humans to fish that day, or expect to be hit by lightning, or take their phone, or become invisible as a symbol of consumer, all based on how you treat a cat, when it walks, what's its color, or if it's quarreling with a snake that day.

Valeria though realizes that you can link her glowing creatures and their mythological representations only to a point. For tomorrow who's panoply of myths have consistent lively, color and lists toward increasing her creatures are evolutionist, too, of Pikiran's Tagbanua tribes and their practices for curing animals. Turtles, roosters, lizards, wild pigs and other animals adorn heirloom Ming bowls containing sticky rice, betel nut and a host of other offerings for their Pagdiwata rituals.

A wooden turtle is a favorite as it unerringly wanders on palay grains resembling pebbles on the shore. Pagdiwata are important days of celebrations and birth because the deities and spirit relatives are called to partake and commune with them. They can be lured from the skyworld only by the sight of these endearing creatures. A visit to this new Valeria Cavestany offering may leave you bumping into several deities as well.

"In lightenment," an exhibition by Valeria Cavestany is running until Oct. 31 at Galleria Duemila, 230 Leviste St., 1300 Bgy. Obi. Call 812-8319980 or e-mail duemila@yahoo.com.

CORTEZ maximizes the use of kitchen wall by converting it into blackboard. Hinged-type handles on cabinets prevent protrusions that can cause accidents.

A MURAL painted on the living room wall by one of Corrine's friends from Pinoyboro Filipino

Tarps as wallpaper, old seatbelts 'solihiya-woven' into wall divider

By Arnelle S. Tayao
Correspondent

Young designers use eco-conscious ideas for one-bedroom condo

THE METAL TARP glass and wood pieces home continues into the living area, while the mural painted wall adds a refreshing touch.

PAULINE Joy Corrine and Karina Diane Corrina

PAMPIS on the hallway wall are bold photos.

WHEN IT COMES TO the environment, the usual mantra is to reduce, reuse and recycle. In eco-friendly interior design however, there's not just those, but five Rs: remove, respect, reduce, reuse and recover.

These five Rs served as guidelines for the winners of the 2009 Metrobank Art & Design Excellence (Metrex) Interior Design Competition, in creating an eco-conscious yet chic and modern living space using recycled and reclaimed materials.

The winners, interior designers Corrine Diane Correa, 23, and Pauline Joy Garcia, 27, were each given a month to design a 48 sq m one-bedroom condo unit, suited to the Capitol Towers along E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City.

Their allotted budget to have their works on the theme, "Eco-interior design towards sustainable future," and work within a P50,000, per-square-meter budget.

Labelling her design as "Streamlined Retreat," granddaughter winner Correa says her theme was "to recover disposed materials and give them new life." Her design rationale also included the challenge of "creating spaces that are aesthetically pleasing and fully functional, but made from trash and/or kits."

Correa's most special prize-worthy her design "Cool Oasis." She describes her design as "given more modern, presented in a palette of cool colors."

Both designers utilized laminates. "A lot of people think it's plastic, but it's really inlaid with little wood, so that makes it more sustainable," says Correa.

However, while Correa mainly employed old glass, strewn wood joists and used wood cuttings, Garcia departed from the usual earthy style associated with eco-interior design. "I wanted to be different...more modern," says Garcia.

The modern elements can be found on the hallway wall—either decorative bricks that naturally double as planter boxes—and in the cabinets. Garcia used, which were mostly a combination of whites, blues, greens and pinks.

Garcia found good use for the hallway wall, the rarely-used joists and old glass were no more than just decoration. "The entire idea [of wall] is reversed to bring it [to] life," she says. Old wood once seen on a living room wall, a kitchen wall/chalkboard and a large cupboard in the bedroom also come as textured areas.

"If you're going to do a sustainable, natural design, you're going to have to factor in every process that will incur," Correa adds. She also used cutter handles on cabinets to prevent protrusions that can harm children.

Garcia emphasized reusing furniture—bunks of chairs were refurbished with woven newspaper and an old bench storage chest was revamped with old lampshades. "We have so many tarps here in the Philippines!" she says.

Garcia also found another use for junked automobiles. The bedroom wall is covered with large, the seatbelts repurposed with a pattern.

And since the competition also called for art, both winners displayed some subtlety in their design. A living room wall in Correa's design displays a hand-painted mural of a tree. "[The art of] tsinelas is a thing native to Antonio," she says, giving credit to a friend from the group Pinoyboro Filipino who painted the mural.

Garcia took out a wall dividing the living room and bedroom and replaced it with sliding door made of solihiya-woven old seatbelts, which she did herself. "I opened this wall for circulation," says Garcia. Another solihiya-woven piece stands as decoration inside the living room.

Both designers, unimpressed with metropolitan realties in the units, said Correa even provided a book on living in the tiny condo's future occupants. "You yourself might as well try to be green," Correa says.

How to clean up after the floods—take it from an expert

Turn to page B3

your time to dry everything thoroughly.

13. Re-grout tiles and wooden drawers and shelves. Salvage what can be used. Once they dry, it is still okay to use them, but sometimes, the chances get much better the wood expands. So, you have no choice but to destroy them because icky stuff is still trapped inside.

14. Wait for at least two to three days to dry everything. Test them and hand-wipe. Do not, I repeat, do not be in a hurry to return things you saved to their original places.

15. Have the number 911 in good fax now-found to do a general cleaning of my house. I have no desire but to clean.

It is easy to go insane after such a exhausting to despair of the material things we lost (especially the cars), but please be thankful you got away with your life and that of your family and loved ones.

Gwendolyn Ang-Ico is a freelance writer for Home Designs Magazine.

Snappy feet

Let your little ones' imagination run wild—put a spring to their step with SM Department Store's children's footwear collection

Little champ

My little lady

Princess diaries

Homemade bath bomb

Do-it-yourself

With Anton Elevado and Marina Lopa

ENJOY A RELAXING, soothing, sensory bathing experience with scented bath bombs that you yourself can make. This easy activity can be enjoyed by you and your family. Have fun crying on fragrances. Peppermint is soothing and invigorating. Lavender is relaxing, while the sweet aroma of rose stimulates circulation. Choose your favored scented oil.

2 tbsp cornstarch
2 tbsp citric acid
½ c baking soda
1 tbsp oil

½ tsp unscented oil of your choice

5 drops of food coloring (optional, to add color to your bath bomb)

Mix all the dry ingredients together. Slowly add oils and food coloring, a little at a time until the right consistency—like a workable dough—is achieved.

If the mixture is too wet, add more baking soda. Too wise just as a caution as which to avoid the mixture too bulk.

Allow the mixture to dry for about 5-8 hours.

If the balls you form are a bit delicate, set them using a scrap mould of light fabric or a baking mold.

Use 1-2 balls in your bath.

HAVILA
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Come home to a place where nature inspires art.

Havila, a 300-hectare township named after the mythical land by the river of Eden.

Through the years, Rizal province has earned the reputation as a hub of art and culture. It has hardboard artists and their families to live and thrive there. Now, you too can live amidst beauty that inspires.

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The exceptional advantages of Havila:

- Recreational facilities, commercial areas and schools like San Beda College and PAREF Southhill School are located within Havila for the convenience of its residents.
- Accessible to Assumption, La Salle in Antipolo, La Salle Greenhills, Xavier School, Ateneo de Manila, Miriam College and University of the Philippines.
- Lifestyle conveniences like SM Taytay and Sta Ortigas Business District are just a short drive away.
- Medical City and Cardinal Santos Medical Center are within easy reach.
- The challenging courses of Valley Golf and Forest Hills Golf & Country Club are close by.
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THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bolido

A 'trashy' movie after 'Ondoy'?

RATHER WE SHOULD HAVE A modern version of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." The main character will be a person who mindlessly throws his/her trash anywhere and everywhere.

Instead of being visited by the ghosts of Christmases past, present and future, the lead character should be haunted by the garbage thrown in the past, present and future. I imagine a survivor where, if he or she happens to be a smoker, he/she will be threatened with asphyxiation by all those talking tins cigarette butts carelessly thrown into the streets, flower pots or anything handy.

Actually some scenes during "Ondoy's" onslaught already make powerful images of how we are made to pay for past—and even present—acts of vandalism and carelessness: people scavenging alongside all the trash dumped into rivers, creeks, seas, lakes and every body of water that some of them probably put there themselves.

You would think that after the destructive floods brought by "Ondoy," a "wrathful" storm in terms of wind power but a basin water "tantrum" people would be more mindful of where and how they dispose of their trash.

But as soon as people came out of their homes, the streets were again strewn with plastic bags and wrappers that they threw away after drinking their mulawig and eating their balanito and mik-bod.

Smokers were dropping cigarette butts everywhere, discarding them on the street before entering establishments where smoking was not allowed. (I would suggest to shopping malls to have receptacles outside their doors where people could drop discarded cigarettes so they do not throw them on the streets. Other buildings could do the same.)

Apparently even in restoration mission, people are making a mess, mindlessly throwing their trash everywhere, no doubt expecting somebody to clean up after them, assuming all their scavenging shelves probably because there are not their own homes. Or are they behaving exactly as they do in their own homes?

"Ondoy" should have shown us that the bad things we do, especially the way we abuse nature and mess up the environment, will not affect other people only, we live in the same community the same country the same planet. Any bad thing we do will come back to haunt us. And nature is no respecter of status and wealth.

Garden show

People who are starting to think about refurbishing their gardens after tropical storm "Ondoy" should find time to visit the Los Baños Flower and Garden Show, Oct. 9-18, at the University of the Philippines Los Baños Social Hall in Los Baños, Laguna. (call Dr. Ben Vergara at 049-5360688, e-mail bvergara@gmail.com).

Sponsored by the Los Baños Horticulture Society that also holds a garden show in the first quarter of the year, the event coincides with the UPLB College Foundation Day.

The show is always greatly anticipated by plant lovers as it brings together not just experts from UPLB but also sellers from Laguna and neighboring provinces, many of them offering highly prized and much sought-after varieties. Experts will also hold lectures on the propagation and care of certain species.

Customer's delight

When Ansons was in its old site along Annan Street (formerly Pines Road), I usually gave it a wide berth, especially when I was looking for appliances. The store's appliances section was on the ground floor that seemed to be the basement the way the establishment was designed. I always found it dark, cramped and claustrophobic.

I was pleasantly surprised at how the store has reinvented itself now that it has a new location beside Makati Shangri-la. The ugly clothing has turned into a oasis. Not only is the showroom bright and spacious, but there is even a comfortable customer lounge where you can sit and wait while they process your purchase.

You do not have to mind around the counters with about a dozen other people waiting for the cashiers to complete the paperwork. They even give you a free bottle of water as you wait. How's that for service?

Kudos to Ansons! This is one happy customer.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 888 Chino Roces Ave. ext. Makati cor. Esteban St., 1204 Makati City; fax (632) 702-510; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE Parenting

How to reach out to kids traumatized by disaster

ROOTS AND WINGS

Gaby Barbers-Gabalfin

Try to involve them, when possible, in relief work—so they feel in control and build a stronger sense of connection

THERE IS A KINSHIP THAT exists among children who have lost a parent early in life. Similarly, a bond exists among people, especially kids, who have lost loved ones in a catastrophe. Experts say when children are traumatized in a disaster such as the one we've just been through, the psychological issues may never fully disappear.

I think of our own children, and us, who experience storm-as-grief through TV or YouTube, in as we read various accounts of tragedy and bravery feel their loss, too. Or Facebook, many Filipinos based overseas expressed their helplessness and sadness over the tragedy of "Ondoy."

I live very close to Marikina. Every day, I am reminded of what is happening outside my village.

I have found videos and seminars to do "grief" work, alongside young people who are fatigued but inclined by the devastation around them. Their quest is admirable, their energy like my nagging spirit.

But how to comfort the younger ones, who are bombarded by news and images of a world seemingly gone berserk with all these calamities?

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) in Bethesda, Maryland, says although most children will be fine, some may need additional support from adults because of their personal circumstances, "in particular those who come from or may have lost loved ones in the affected areas."

Adults can help children by supporting their emotional and psychological needs, helping them to understand the events logically, and providing space for them to process their experiences.

NASP outlines ways by which we can help, not only our children, but also ourselves. These guidelines may be used not only in catastrophes like Ondoy, but for any kind of loss as well.

• Talk to your children and students. At home or in class, take the time to discuss events formally.

In the week just passed, whenever the kids were at home, we discussed the situation at the dinner table. I showed them updates on Facebook and we looked at photos and videos together.

At the Ateneo de Manila University and Miriam College where I teach, third-year and first-year high school students, respectively, have been made that the remaining weeks of the semester be used for lessons and projects relevant to what has just taken place.

In Miriam, where 75 percent of the student population come from Pasig, Marikina and Cainta, teachers have been advised not to give failing marks as much as possible, only an incomplete grade when necessary.

• Let children discuss their feelings and concerns. Encourage them to ask questions. Even children who do not know anyone who's been hurt may experience a sense of loss or grief, may feel at risk themselves, or be concerned that such a major disaster can happen to them with little to no warning.

Acknowledge and normalize their feelings. A caring listener is important. Let them know others share their feelings and their reactions are common and expected.

• Be a good listener and observer. Let your children's questions guide you on how much information you can share or they can take in. When are not focused on the tragedy, don't dwell on it. Just make yourself available to answer their questions. For kids severely affected, pay attention to changes in their behavior or social interaction.

• Highlight people's compassion and humanity. Ondoy brought out the best in the Filipino spirit and produced many heroes. Tell your children these stories. Stress the connections empowering of support from many people. Better yet, try to involve them, when possible, in relief work. Taking action is one of the most powerful ways to help children feel more in control and build a stronger sense of connection.

• Emphasize people's resiliency. Most, more than any event in recent history, exemplify this theme. Help children understand the ability of people to come through from tragedy and move on. Use the events to plant the seeds in your children's minds that they, too, have the ability to overcome adversity.

• Be honest. As I write, another storm is brewing outside, possibly bigger and stronger. Though I try to remain steadfast in prayer, I fear for the safety of my children. I acknowledge my feelings and tell them to be ready for emergency and pray for God's protection. That's our only way out of the fear.

Our power is full and the emergency kits ready. We will spend much time in prayer over the next few days. In any crisis, the responsible adult must balance excitement of concern with emergency preparedness and response systems at home.

• Spend family time. Being with family is always important in difficult or sad times. Even if your children are not affected by this tragedy and because they are out of school, use this opportunity to appreciate and participate in family life. Doing things together underscores a child's sense of safety.

Take breaks by watching something light on TV, reading stories or doing something fun together at home. Watch for always hours just of the Disney's endeavor. Try new food recipes, cook.

I pray you all remain safe from the floods.

E-mail the author at carbyfabio@gmail.com

Book debunks long-held parenting myths

By Rowena C. Bargas

ARE YOU THE KIND OF PARENT who praises your child for achieving in school? Did you know that praising your child's excellent success versus his or her effort to achieve may be creating damage to his or her self-confidence?

Did you know that children today are getting between 30 and 40 minutes less sleep than years past? And that some seemingly normal teenage moodiness, depression and even binge eating may be signs of chronic sleep deprivation?

Were you aware that by age 5, approximately 80 percent of kids have experimented with lying? And that typically young children lie to make their parents happy, not themselves?

Did you know that if you picked 100 children as "gifted" in Kindergarten, that by the third grade, only 27 of them would still deserve the categorization? And that identifying your child as gifted or not prior to the third grade may result in inaccurate categorization?

Did you know that siblings between the ages 3 and 7 spend up to 10 minutes of each hour fighting?

In "Nurture Shock," award-winning science journalists Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman attempt to debunk some of the parenting myths that have either been passed down from generation to generation or supported by various scientific studies.

Good intentions

In this interesting book, Bronson and Merryman give parents an opportunity to weigh all information and decide on outcomes.

Are we doing our children more harm than good? Is it possible that our good intentions are the source of many of our children's problems?

In a world of modern, involved, caring parents, why are so many kids aggressive and cruel? Where is intelligence hidden in the teens, and why does that matter? Why do crosscultural friendships decrease in schools that are more integrated? What's the single most important thing that helps infants learn language?

Bronson and Merryman present their theories based on numerous studies and observations, either conducted by themselves or by colleagues.

'Nurture Shock' offers shocking findings such as the younger generation's sleep deprivation and the negative pressure exerted on children when parents place too much emphasis on academics

Bronson authored five books, including the No.1 New York Times bestseller "What Should I Do With My Life?" Merryman's journalism has appeared in The Washington Post and The National Catholic Reporter.)

Groundbreaking

"Nurture Shock" is a groundbreaking collaboration between Bronson and Merryman. They argue that when it comes to children, we've mistaken good intentions for good ideas. With impeccable storytelling and sharp analysis, they demonstrate that many of modern society's strategies for motivating children are in fact backfiring —because key twists in the science have been overlooked.

Nothing like a parenting manual, this book is an insightful exploration of themes and issues that transcend children's (and adults') lives.

Feeling of dread

The term "nurture shock" refers to the feeling of dread that comes creeping into the brain and heart when the supposedly innate wellspring of parenting know-how does not spring forth. Parenting is skill based. It takes work and reflection. A quick rhetorical jolt through the multiple "means the parent" shows us television is proof that parents are looking for new thinking.

The book convincingly shows the science that debunks long-held assumptions about children, child development and successful parenting.

The purpose of "Nurture Shock" is to teach parents that some of the conventional wisdom about parenting and child development is a combination of "wishful thinking, mumbled biases, contagious folk, personal history and old (disproven) psychology..."

The authors tackle a variety of topics: Effective praise; sleep deprivation and children; conversations about race and skin color; why kids lie; intelligence testing; why siblings fight; teen rebellion; self-discipline; cooperation and aggression; and infant language skills.

The topics were selected because the research was surprising to the authors and contradicted common parenting practices. Bronson and Merryman encourage readers to take time to think about the science and how it applies to child development. Examples from the authors' own research in our own strategies help the reader imagine how this might work in real life.

While the accessibility to some concepts in parenting practices may seem shocking at first, the new fact-based path ultimately seems clearer.

Whether you agree with the ideas or theories in this book or not, it's a fascinating read. Every parent, teacher, grandparent and caretaker should read this at least once.

Halloween bash to remember

LITTLE White Bunny costume from Bumblebee & Company

JUNIOR Firefighter costume from Costumania Inc.

WINE DEPOT
in partnership with
INQUIRER LIFESTYLE
present the first ever
PHILIPPINE '09
WINE AND FOOD WEEK
Oct 10
WINE DEPOT '09
THE FESTIVAL
the Biggest
Wine and Food Festival
in the Philippines
NBC Tent
2 - 8 pm
Enjoy hundreds of awarded wines and gourmet food!
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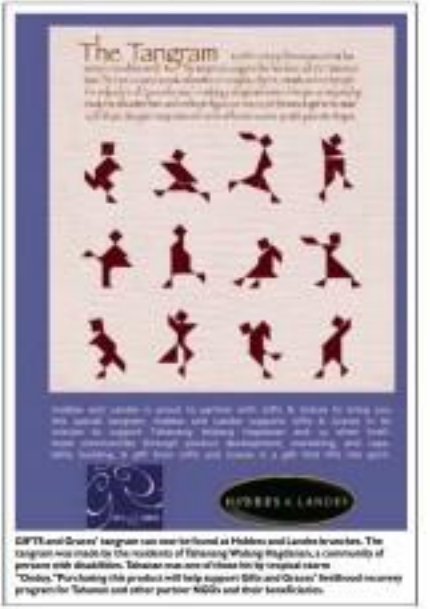


GIFTS and Graces' tangram can soon be found at Hobbes and Landes branches. The tangram was made by the residents of Tahanang Walang Hagdanan, a community of persons with disabilities. Tahanan was one of those hit by tropical storm "Ondoy." Purchasing this product will help support Gifts and Graces' livelihood recovery program for Tahanan and other partner NGOs and their beneficiaries.

Multimedia musical show to launch world-class science museum in Taguig

THE MIND MUSEUM, A WORLD-class science museum in Taguig, is set to be constructed by a planned 2011 formal opening.

Bonifacio Art Foundation Inc. (BAFI), with Ayala-owned Philippine Group, will present an audio-visual preview of the museum on Oct. 13 at the SM Mall of Asia Global City.

The preview will feature Rival Williams' "Bella Gaia" ("Beautiful Earth"), high definition, large-screen projection of the earth taken from outer space. Williams' live music complements the video.

Ayala Mall shoppers can experience the preview in Greenbelt on Oct. 14, and TriNoma on Oct. 15.

The Mind Museum will rise in a six-per-prime 12,000-sq.m. site in Bonifacio Global City, right at the UP Campus' Ninth of Bonifacio High Street. Groundbreaking is set on Oct. 15.

The museum will have over 175 interactive exhibits in five galleries (Atom, Life, Universe, Earth and Technology) and an outdoor Science Park with four main play pockets (Water, Math, Music, and Sustainable Living).

"Bella Gaia" is an audio-visual "living other" journey of the world, painting the deeply moving beauty of planet Earth as seen through the eyes of astronauts. Collaborating with NASA, "Bella Gaia" is a new immersive theatre experience, a portal for an audience to develop a deeper connection with planet Earth.

From the first to the Amazon basin to time-lapse images of the arctic ice melt, the stunning orchid imagery created by Sony Ericsson software and NASA provides an inspirational selection of the astronaut's view from space.

Also featured in the presentation are multifaceted experiences through earth-bound journeys...from exotic Japanese temples to Egyptian pyramids.

RIVAL Williams

"Bella Gaia" brings art, technology, space science and real scientific data visualization together, in a form that is both entertaining and educational, fused with the common goal of raising awareness and fostering appreciation of our home planet.

Williams, an award-winning and world-renowned musician, filmmaker, and classically trained violinist, combines breath-taking visual media with captivating music to tell the story of planetary consciousness and spiritual evolution. He has composed and produced six albums, and directed 15 films and music videos. Rival Orchestra-brought projects, and several meditation-themed live shows.

Williams has brought "Bella Gaia" to many cities around the globe. The Philippines will have the opportunity to experience the awesome playof visual and musical performance, courtesy of the Mind Museum of Taguig.

ARTWORK by Rudy Cui

Assumption HS class '69 holds art exhibit

FORTY YEARS AFTER graduating from the Assumption Convent in old Heroes, the High School Class of 1969 is reuniting and celebrating bonds with an art exhibit called "Fuentes of a Baby."

The exhibit will feature the top artists of the class, Marivic Ruffino and Rudy Cui, who have distinguished themselves in the art world. Cui has made a name for herself in Amsterdam and Europe, while Ruffino is one of the most sought-after artists in the Manila art circle.

The other class artists who will participate in the show include Gloria Lazatin Mayor, Lourdes Laurel Castillo, Merry Tores Diehl, Mindy Brigden and Tess C. Lopez. The son of Bertica Llanja Reyes, who passed away a few years ago, will also be displayed.

Proceeds of the show will go to the St. Martin Island Assumption in Baguio, the Assumption Technical High School in San Juan, Pampanga and the Valdehermoso Helping Hands Foundation Inc. in Negros Occidental.

The exhibit will run from October 10 to 15 at the Arts Gallery, UM Building, 216 Alfonso Garcia Jr., Bel-Air, Makati City. It opens on October 10, 6 p.m.

Canine club cites pet-friendly mall

A MALL IN EASTWOOD CITY IN LIBIS, Quezon City would serve for complete with pet-walking around the area with their business owners.

This has led the Philippine Canine Club, Incorporated (PCCI) to endorse Eastwood City as a pet-friendly mall during the recent launching of its responsible pet ownership program.

PCCI, in partnership with Eastwood City, launched "Petiquette Handbook for Owners" which aims to guide dog owners in the proper care and handling of their pet dogs ("petiket" is a wordplay on the words pet and Etiquette; the social networking website).

Experts from PCCI talked about responsible dog ownership. Shaun Ilao, former PCCI Chief Executive Club, Inc.) presided explained how to pick the right type of dog to suit a potential owner.

PCCI board member Johnny Hart and Danny Santillano, accountable, discussed tips on taking care of dogs and maintaining and training the pet. Some 200 pieces brought their dogs with them and listened to the talks.

Call 7210345; e-mail pcci@pcciinternet.org

Indigenous Australian art at Yuchengco Museum

MANUEL L. QUEZON AWARDEE
Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista recently bestowed on Dr. Trampolino Elizalde Jr. the Gawad Manuel L. Quezon Award for Health and Medicine. With the awardee is his son, Trampolino Reno Elizalde III.

Experience Australia's aboriginal cultural heritage by visiting the Australian Embassy's "Balgo: Contemporary Australian Art from the Balgo Hills" exhibition at the Yuchengco Museum (RCBC Plaza, Ayala and Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati City) until Oct. 22. The show features 36 indigenous paintings and etchings by 18 internationally renowned and emerging Kukatja language-speaking artists from the Wanarn Artists Art Centre in the Balgo Hills region of West ern Australia. The artists include Boxer Milner, Helicopter Tjungarrayi, Edwina Nampitjin and Elizabeth Nyumi. Australian Ambassador Rod Smith said the Balgo Hills (or Wirrimanu), which is located on the northern edge of the Tanami and Great Sandy Deserts, is considered one of Australia's most important indigenous art centers.

Ateneo jubilee watch

Eagles '68-'84, alumni of the Ateneo de Manila high school class '60 and college '64, came out with a new Ateneo Jubilee watch with the double seal—the original seal of the Ateneo 4 via its founding days in intrusience with the sea lion and bones, and the present blue and white seal with the knives of Loyola stripes and two anchors between.

The watch was designed by Salcal Paisley, and the limited edition is available at Loyola Schools Bookstore in mall branches and Bell Service in Jollibee outlets (0929-9090311) or with Bonjer Sunst (Sacrifice, 0449xx-xxxx).

Proceeds from the sale go to the purchase of six additional bells for the carillon of the Church of Gesu in Loyola Heights.

HK Halloween treats

The Hong Kong Tourism Board and Hong Kong Disneyland Resort and Ocean Park Hong Kong present Hong Kong Halloween Treats theme party and costumer travel fair, "the Hong Kong Halloween Treats," which runs until Oct. 31. Features fun activities, events and carnivals at Hong Kong Disneyland Resort, Madame Tussauds Hong Kong and Ocean Park Hong Kong, plus shopping and dining pleasures at participating shopping malls and dining outlets.

WHAT'S UP

Los Baños garden show

In conjunction with the UP Los Baños College Foundation Day, the Los Baños Horticulture Society will sponsor its flower and garden show, with the theme "Palms and Philodendrons in the Garden," on Oct. 9 to 10 at the UPLB Senior Social Hall. Marina Celpon, president of the society, said new varieties of Palms and Philodendrons will be featured. The exhibit will be formally opened by the former first lady Ming Ramos. There will be lecture-demonstrations by plant experts on the following weekends: Oct. 10, landscape trend talked will talk on practical guide to landscaping; Oct. 11, Ric Chin will tackle culture of orchids; Sonny Tria will discuss growing of bonsai/philodendrons on Oct. 17. Tina Santos will demonstrate organic gardening for healthy living on Oct. 18. All lectures will be held every 2 p.m. with some plants and other garden materials to be raffled off for free. Call Dr. Ben Tengco at (049) 536-0689 or e-mail bentengco@gmail.com.

PSID exhibit

The PSID Advanced Class of 2000 presents its graduation exhibit dubbed "Kontemporo: Filipino Contemporary Interiors: Indigenous Foods," until Oct. 31 at the Athena Building, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City.

AyalaLand

Q How do you start saving for a dream home?

A Apply for an Ayala Land Homestarter Bond today.

By investing in an Ayala Land Homestarter Bond you can begin saving for the home of your dreams. Pay as little as P5,000 a month for 3 years and earn 5% interest, guaranteed. You can also enjoy additional credit if you apply it as downpayment for an Ayala Land property. Secure a brighter tomorrow. In a beautiful home, for you and your family. Ayala Land, enhancing land, enriching lives for more people.

Ayala Land HOMESTARTER BOND

Issue Manager and Underwriter: BPI Capital Corporation

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO OWN A NEW HOME?

Ayala Land wants a new breed of homeowners who are building financial strength (P5,000 at a time.

"I want to buy, but I can't afford the downpayment is the constant complaint of many aspiring middle-class home buyers. They dream but are afraid to act on it," according to Ben Mendoza, senior vice president of Ayala Land, Inc. He further adds that even with the affordability of affordable housing, a real estate title is beyond the grasp of many potential homeowners. The typical downpayment alone, becomes a stumbling block to ownership.

Homestarter Bond

Ayala Land, the country's most trusted property developer, pioneer aspiring owners an innovative way to own the dream downpayment.

From September 28 to October 14, Ayala Land Homestarter Bonds will be offered to the general public. The scheme requires buyers to set aside as little as P5,000 a month for a bond subscription of 36 months. The resulting P180,000 sum, 5% guarantee and when applied as a downpayment to a property developed by Ayala Land through an endorsed broker, Ayala Land Premier, Alveo and Avida, it earns an additional 10% credit.

Unmatched Financial Instrument

Mendoza states, "Nowhere else will P5,000 a month earn 5% a year on a fixed rate arrangement with a Triple A risk. On top of that, you still earn an additional 10% on your principal if you use it to purchase an Ayala Land property. It's a great way to grow your money or you can invest your dream home."

According to Augusto Bengzon, treasurer of Ayala Land, the noted Homestarter Bond was first unveiled three years ago to create a new breed of homeowners. "By helping buyers save for a down payment month at a time, this scheme will foster financial discipline and the financial muscle to deserve and enjoy a home." He relates that many who subscribed to the bond in 2006 gained greater control over their finances, a quality that shields them from defaulting on payments over the long run.

Bengzon declares that as enhancement of the second issue of this Homestarter Bond is that subscribers are no longer limited to acquiring only a maximum of P15,000 a month. Compared to savings accounts, time deposits and other financial instruments being offered during this difficult economic period, the 5% per annum earnings offered by the bond is considered generous. Thus, he reports it to attract not only potential home buyer but also a large number of investors who may opt to simply invest in a safe financial instrument.

Option

At any time during the three-year investment period, a bondholder has the option to select an Ayala Land Premier, Alveo or Avida property and apply the bond as downpayment. Bondholders will also enjoy the benefit of receiving advance notice of new properties being offered by these companies. "This will be advantageous to investors because they will be among the first to select the units or properties that meet their development," promises Mendoza.

Should a bondholder be unable to continue the monthly payments during the three-year period, the subscription will be terminated and all contributions returned without interest.

A home forms part of a cherished life goal for Filipinos. Home ownership is an aspiration that cuts across sexes and social positions. The journey towards homeownership begins with the first step: subscription to the Homestarter Bond. Contact us at 891 [illegible] 884 4-8-7891, 575-5815, 555-5511 or 655-5800. Telephone (063) 9634776, Cebu (032) 4234616 or (032) 255 6600, CDO (088)22 711555 (Fax) (082) 2310556.

Ayala Land: enhancing land, enriching lives, for more people.

Issue Manager and Underwriter: BPI Capital Corporation

Editor Ermelo G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

Top 10 Sites at the BO box office

When Ai Ai met Noynoy

By Mabel R. Cruz

IT'S HEARTENING TO know that local show biz celebs are well informed about socioeconomic issues, so that when they met Sen. Benigno Aquino at dinner on Sunday night, the questions they asked the presidential aspirant was described by a witness as "kind-cute."

One such question came from comedian Ai Ai de las Alas: "Senator Noy, will you allow same-sex marriage in the Philippines?"

Aquino's curt reply: "Ang pangit [ugly]," across-TV host Bulls-Dalisay reported in her Twitter account on Monday.

Various concerns

"Tawag Dalawa" host Jolo Cantos and Grand Audience asked questions concerning the Philippine Military Academy and a course done to the Aquino family who was present. Jolo and Gerald portrayed young soldiers in the recently concluded top-rating series in ABS-CBN.

Darlito Ocampo, founder of R.I.I.D. Foundation, was concerned about population control in general, and redistribution efforts in Luzon affected by "Typhoon Ramon Ventura" in particular.

Other topics laid out the table were were education, poverty reduction, calamity relief operations, youth empowerment and, incredibly, the cause of the local film industry and censorship.

108 guests

The dinner was hosted by Noynoy's youngest sister Kris at the Aquino family's mansion on Times Street in Quezon City. There were about 300 guests, including Noynoy's running mate, Sen. Mar Roxas. The Aquinos literally are in complete attendance.

Kris said it was her idea to host the gathering. "I felt it was important to make[sure] who they are and my sisters," she said. "Since I'm not big on hanging up pulso', we should sit down with them and explain[to] me any misunderstanding we have with them. It's a way of doing away[with] unfinished business."

The session clarified that the stars were "not asked to commit to Noynoy," Ayan from the questions and answers portion," the source said, "there was no mere talk of politics or the senator's candidacy. All in all, the mood was very casual."

The other stars present were Ai Conniejones, Pedro Pascual, Raymond Gutierrez, Bea Alonzo, Angel Aviz Pangan-Lobo, Monte Magdaraog, John Prats, Isaa Mlby, Jaime Costa, Erik Santos, Benjie Fernandez, Marcel Rodriguez, Pooh, Tuchong Dee, Ji Ocampo, Gail Blanco and Iritis.

Also on the party were colleagues of Kris Cristobal, Phil Alan James Yap, Archie Dingcheng Dimaro, whom Kris called and was "on top of the list" of minds that her family was seeking support from, was spotted as well. Dimaro reportedly asked to meet the senator before making a decision.

Yellow flowers

As a token, each guest was gifted with a framed commemorative PI bill, the first one signed by the late President Corazon Aquino when she assumed office in 1986.

The food was catered by Pepper Mill. "There was a three-course repast: lentils, Bulls related. "So delish! Iwanted bite but two servings of the bread pudding."

"Yellow flowers adorned the tables," added the source.

E-mail: mrcruz@inquirer.com.ph

Ai Ai asked about same-sex marriage

DINGDONG was spotted at the party.

SUPER Twisted about the gathering.

GERALD asked about the PMA.

Not the best weekend for shows

By Rochelle Concepcion

PEOPLE STAGED THAT PRODUCTIONS last weekend due to typhoon warnings. In fact the "ELDO" benefit show set Friday at Eastwood City—one of the last to be organized for victims of the recent floods—had to be postponed for a later date.

Meanwhile, the Gloria Diaz-Wenceslao Vinzons-Gullas Museum, also on Friday, could only fill up a few hundred seats, according to a production staffer. But those who made it reportedly had a good time.

The Air Supply show on Saturday, likewise held at the Big Dome, faced a little hurdle in that no more than 2,000 of the audience—although that's still a far cry from the capacity crowd of about 10,000 that the band drew last year at the same venue.

However, the performance itself was worth the commute on a stormy night. It also gave skeptics a chance to see the Supply from a different perspective. Those who thought the group was eternally lucky (not classy), and who bypassed tickets even for shows appearing to be considered this family's tradition does a respectable act.

The songs—which have become standard karaoke fare worldwide—can be overly sentimental in lyrical content and vocal delivery. But on Friday night, lead singer Russell Hitchcock and guitarist-singer Nate Augustine Graham Russell, with a four-man backing, transformed the bands' original lovelyness approach into something magical.

The show had the elements of rock operas, which Hitchcock and Russell are very familiar with, since they first met as cast members in a 1975 Australian production of Sean Christ Superstar." There was a compelling theater-musical feel, for instance, to "Power of Love" which had a clanging rhythm and Hitchcock's high tenor reading with an edgy tone.

Russell was a sight to behold, channeling Pete Townshend with his propjumps while strumming the guitar to emphasize propulsive beats throughout the night. Russell, too, provided

BOT 11

CHEER FACTOR

Pinoys rule in Bangkok

FIP FILMMAKERS created a stir backto-back wins at the 7th Bangkok Int'l Film Festival.

Jeffrey Hilario's fantastical drama "Independencia" won the top prize, Golden Kinnaree, at the Southeast Asian metropolitan. David Aubrey Sanchez's gritty gang story "Babasit" and avab Mahiwaon Anne Lee's "Call If You Need Me" for the Special Mention in the same section.

Hilario, currently in the US for a screening of "Independencia" at the New York Film Festival, told the Inquirer via SMS, "Philippine cinema is elevated well."

Sanchez's "Independencia" a Cinema One Digital for winner, earlier pit the Woosook and Hospe awards in Busan's Jeonju Festival.

The 2K competition jurors were Italian journalist Vincenzo Buggio, Singapore director Boo-

FINCH 11

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

AL LIPIN BY JOE LABRADA

FUSSO BARDY BY RYK JUNSON

DICK TRACY

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHOCKLEY

JAMES BOND

DIVINE COMEDY BY ITSKOOL PANLOKAL

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

TULDOK BY RAMIR COLL

NEH BY DAVIS, SHELTON

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCILLANO

BIKO MACHINE BY RAMIR ASHERA

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

			2	5	1	4		
	9	2		4		8		
	6			7		3		
		6			9			
		7			1			
2			8	6		7		
6		3			7		5	1
7	8					4	3	
5						9		

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Type and compose at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

6	4	2	8	3	9	5	1	7
5	7	9	4	1	6	2	3	8
8	3	1	7	5	2	9	6	4
3	5	8	6	4	7	1	2	9
2	9	6	1	8	3	4	7	5
7	1	4	2	9	5	3	8	6
1	8	3	9	6	4	7	5	2
9	6	7	5	2	1	8	4	3
4	2	5	3	7	8	6	9	1

Battle of the sexes

KATHERINE HEIGL'S LATEST romantic comedy, "The Ugly Truth," pairs her for the first time with chunky scene hunk Gerard Butler. The new tandem's film highlights the dynamic difference between the two leads' screen personas: Heigl is a cool and smart cookie, while Butler is an macho ox (as he cannot be overstated in this regard). The contrast in acting types energizes the movie and infuses the pluck-around love-hate, hate-love proposition.

Heigl plays a TV executive whose well-ordered life is turned up by Butler, a new TV personality she's ordered to work with when he's hired to generate higher ratings for the morning show she produces.

Butler does draw viewers with his sassy commentaries about delusional and lonely women, but his forthright views are a delight only because they're the antithesis of what she wants to hear.

Thus, the movie quickly degenerates into a common quest that sometimes gets physical. At first, all that bickering is bewitching, but it soon feels repetitive and consequently redundant.

Heigl's hatred for Butler is eliminated when he offers to help her get the "perfect" man she wants. Unfortunately the years they call me simplistically results in their falling for each other, reacts against their "logical" convictions.

Thus, but the plot wife is too gas and predictable to be all that interesting and involving, so the viewer is left underwhelmed.

More productively, the film draws some tips on male-female relationships that some viewers may find diverting or informative. Ironically, Butler lacks room to for living in a world of illusions, which in his view explains why so many of them end up lonely and dissatisfied with their love life.

In his view women run have a better chance at finding love and happiness if they realize that what men want is very different from women's hopes and expectations.

Hooter males get turned on by physical allure and acumen, while advises women to always look their most seductive best. But, he also warns them that, if that's all they have going for them, they won't be able to keep their beaus, whose attention span is notoriously short-lived. In, he teaches his show's avid female viewers to play psychological games designed to keep their boyfriends confused—and hot and bothered.

This cinematic second is very unusually entertaining, but the blatant demo techniques in the form cinematic and that eventually weighs the movie down. Romantic comedies need to fly high, but this one barely scrapes through—and that's the catch.

Arm competition

Quezon City marks its 70th year by holding this in song competition, pitching and photogra phy exclusively for QC residents.

GMAAC in Korea

President Gloria Ma Ino. is representing the Gloria Arroyo Century in the 2009 Global Pale and Medical in Incheon, South Korea, ongoing until Oct. 15.

The Ino is designed to bring together the world's leading cities to celebrate their diverse cultures and share their visions for the future.

President Gloria Ma aims to introduce and promote Filipino artists to perform in concerts and be part of various formats TV shows, and vice-versa.

'Stranger Among Bears'

Every Sunday at 10 p.m., Asi and Daver telecast "Stranger Among Bears," which follows bear enthusiast Charlie Vandergaan, a retired Anchorage veteran teacher who has received international attention for his unique but controversial relationship with black grizzly bears.

Not the best weekend for shows

From page E1

the new insights to which Air Supply would win more converts when he previewed a new song he wrote, "A Little Bit More." Accompanying himself on solo acoustic guitar, Russell's subject of forward-pointed drink is a welcome departure from the Air Supply of old.

Another new touch, "Dance With Me," featured an upbeat tune, a tempo, which had dozens of fans moving up close to the stage to take snapshots and share the buzz.

Concert promoter Steve O'Neal may have lost big money in mounting the show in the aftermath of "Ondoy," but he said he would still donate token sales to flood victims.

Counting the tenants to first, here are two benefit gigs worth going to:

■ Oct. 8, 10 a.m.-2 a.m., Taguig City Auditorium, General Luna Ave., Upper Bicutan. Performers include members of Orgasmiyan ng Maribong Filipino, Amanyan ng Maribong Pilipino, among others. Donations in cash or kind will serve as entrance ticket.

■ Oct. 10, 8 p.m., Music Museum, Aseo Ore., Makati. Zoo and surprise guests. Call 731-4726.

Pinoys rule in Bangkok

From page E1

ner Tan and That makes Tel Manunulan.

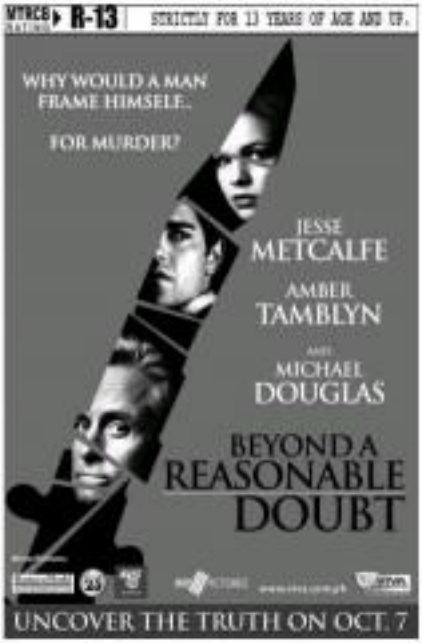
"Independencia" also won the Netpac prize in Bangkok. Netpac (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) consists of film critics from all over the world. Bangkok's Netpac jurors were Tet Lauda's Rinjiarere Bairaoi-Mendiara, South Korea's Jung Soo-wan and Thailand's Eratavee Chalyabongsthorn.

The event's official publication, Surrial Daily, called the Philippines "a new tiger" in world cinema. Last year, HP won three awards in Bangkok (brilliant Mendoza's "Serbis" (Gold), Brillante Mendoza's "Kinatay" won Silver), and John Torres' "Years. Pfleet. I Pisces Child Outside" (Special Mention) in the SEA section, and Pamela Xavier Pamen's "Jay" (Special Mention) in the Main Competition.

This year, acteille Alle it's "Serpent" was also in the SEA Section. Alle and Hunter's "Manila" and Mendoza's "Kinatay" were featured in SEA Resistance section. A short film by Lav Diaz, part of the trilogy "Swastik Digital Project 2008: Heroes," was screened at mall.

In the Main Competition, where Mendoza was a jury member, Peter Brosens and Jessica Woodworth's "Altiplano" (Belgium-Germany-Netherlands) won the Grand Prix.

Beyond Sat (Bingo 4)



Celebs' horror stories about typhoons

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DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

After every storm, God sends us rainbows

IN THE AFTERMATH OF TROPICAL Storm "Ondoy" let us take comfort in the thought that after every storm, God sends us rainbows. All we have to do is keep looking up.

I'm grateful to have been spared from the wrath of "Ondoy" but my heart bleeds for all those who were not as fortunate. Seeing the destruction it caused reminded me of one day in the 1970s, when the roof of my house was blown away by Super Typhoon "Yoling"—a while we were raising funds. That humble experience has left an indelible mark on me.

Celebs have their own horror stories about typhoons, finishes

Alfred Vargas: "Seeing a lot of collies lined up inside a covered court-turned-evacuation center moved/moved...shaped in Barangay Bagong Silangan, Quezon City, it was unforgettable 'Ondoy' experience, seeing the bodies... I am still remember every detail. Their faces all showed agony and desperation. And now their families are feeling helpless and hopeless."

Ogie Alcasid: "I woke up one morning 11

Ogie Alcasid and Michael V. A sadness, even as a real life, when making others happy

years ago to see that my place in Magallanes already had the shortest in the first floor."

Christian Bautista: "Two storms combined hit Cavite when I was in high school. There were water-deep floods everywhere. We went to my lola's house to move her appliances to the second floor."

Bernie Ibuna: "When I was in high school, I walked through the floods from Recto to Mendiola."

For 'Ondoy' victims

My love Bocaue-based singer-songwriter **Arnaud Tii** composed a song, "S.O.S. from the Philippines" (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHaxbbIaVQg) to help raise more funds from abroad for "Ondoy" victims. May it pave more hearts to keep on giving.

Thankful vendors

Amid the chaos brought about by Ondoy, the entire cast and crew of "Joyce & Angelina: The Untold Story" thanked Almighty God for many positive developments, including the safety of friends and the support of fans.

Lead stars Ogie Alcasid and **Michael V** are overwhelmed that their movie grossed P10 million on opening day. They also worked as vendors in and after Ondoy, distributing relief foods and relieving help from their sponsors. It's "The Spoiled Brat" stars' turn to spoil the typhoon victims.

Remembering Riko

Pia Hapalmo and her kids celebrated the birthday of their beloved Francisco on Oct. 4 in a special way. "We visited Riko at 9 a.m. then went to Mass at noon," said Pia. "We followed our usual Sunday routine like we did when he was still with us. Had lunch at CBC dining then Glow Spa. The only part missing was the dinner we have in the evening which we normally did since my birthday follows on the 5th."

It's more than a remembrance that Riko and Pia's birthdays fall almost on the same day. It only goes to show that they were destined to be together.

Raising gay kids

My son JL and I had fun as guests on QTV's "Full Time Moms," which premieres third week of October. It's hosted by Iyot (nurse Cristina Jacobs-Sandejas) and Tom (comedian-dresser, who have the right combination of wit and candor.

Our episode was about raising a gay child. **Philip Lazaro** said there are times they forget their obligations as gays or that they are gay to begin with. **Arnell Ignacio** said as a dad I necessarily fall for guys who dismay them with gifts. "Guys will say thank you," said Arnel, "but not 'I love you' habil pag nagdalaga na ng anggang dregge. How na ang TOOM, ma-Ginoo."

What a delightful "feeling bonding" we had!

Gold mark

Broadcast journalist **Daniel Razon**'s "Iniay Anew Lang" CD hit gold upon release.

Produced by Brotherhood and Hibiscus Productions International (BHPI), it contains nine OPM power tunes—"No More Questions," "True Love," "Walking Way Bulay," "NBA a Smile," "Hanang Ma Lang Iniya," "I'll Never Go," "Perseverance," "Tag-ulan," "Hold On" and one original, the title track which is also the promotional single.

"Iniay Anew Lang" (lifted similarly as the album's) was launched at the Big Dome during the "SUPERCOS: Iniay Anew Lang" concert for the benefit of juvenile drug abusers. PIA Public Service is now enjoying public exhibition!

Dance fest

ABS-CBN Regional Network Group's Jacqueline Ramos went to the "Feast Basket of the Philippines," Davao, to celebrate the Kadayawan Festival with its tours at the just-parked Sasa-Abad Airport.

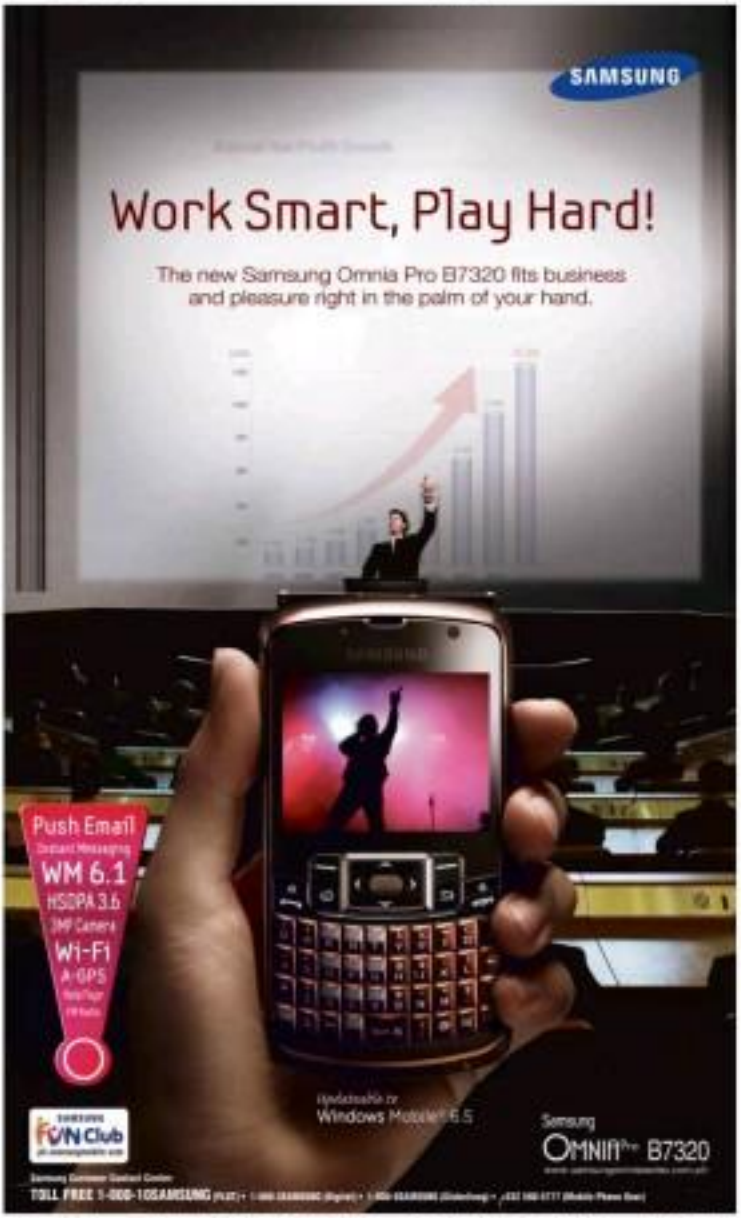
Steve Cuttle, Gerald Anderson, Hiro Peters, Melissa Ricks, Gary Marvin, The Gypsy Boys, **Claudette** of Kapamilya Primer Kid Dance) and Ms. Filipina International '07 **Nadia Montenegro** performed special numbers. It was the most attended show in the mall's 12-year history.

And ABS-CBN station manager Trisha Crespo: "We are overwhelmed by the support of Sasaonians to the Kapamilya network. Sinasangyaan shake at not even enough to repay their love and loyalty for the network."

Thanks, ah, Kapamilya!

PERSONAL: Thanks a ton to the cool team of Derek May (**April Anders, Season 6, 28**) for formalizing me as an adventurer in their twitter team. Gracias also to fancy **Albert Menendez** for the fab deals. Gosh, your free copy of Derek's friends and fans everywhere!

E-mail: sunnydayladies@yahoo.com



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Boy

Directed by Auraeus Solito; stars Arlene Salas, Aiden Pinto, Madelaine Nicolas, Neal Bacay-an, Dante Balboa Jr.

Teen poet (Aiden) tells his toys to be on his s made snippet (Neal) he a night of film. Fantabu San Francisco holds it in "an exquisitely tender evocation of the delicate, dreamy netherworld between love and lust." Exclusively in Cinlebrities Robinsons Galleria.

The Echo

Directed by Tom Lennon; stars Jesse Bradford, Amelia Warner, Iza Calzado, Carlos Leon, Jessie Mueh, Kevin Durand

An ex-convict (Bradford) is disturbed and haunted by the brutal goings-on in a neighbor's apartment. Told Bernie of Pinkfabbo are only it a "moody piece of work." Jay Antony of Filmcritic.com rebuts: "Ghosts are the only frightening thing in the movie ... dramatic tension is not to be found."

Beyond a Reasonable Doubt

Directed by Peter Hyams; stars Amber Tamblyn, Jesse Metcalfe, Michael Douglas, Joel Moore, Orlando Jones, Tony Bentley

... Journalist (Metcalfe) comes himself to expose corruption in the justice system. Entertainment Weekly's Owen Gleiberman states: "Douglas makes movie a dreary pleasure, but that role is in search of a hero." Joanna Calcasky of New York Times quips: "Unlike Douglas' hairdo, the movie never rises above unconvincing."

Fame

Directed by Kevin Tancharoen; stars Asher Book, Walter Perez, Anna Maria Perez de Tagle, Bebe Neuwirth, Debbie Allen

Gifted kids discover their talents and hone selves in a prestigious New York school for the arts. Bobbi Ulrich of Time first observes: "There are enough teary soap-operatic plotlines for a thousand Gossip Girls." Bobbi Gibb of Entertainment Spectrum thinks it's "geared to fans of MTV videos with short attention spans."

G-Force

Directed by Hoyt Yeatman; stars Nicolas Cage, Penelope Cruz, Sam Rockwell, Tracy Morgan, Steve Buscemi, Bill Nighy

Guinea pigs trained as spies take on a wicked billionaire (Nighy) who wants to rule the world. Peter Bradshaw of Guardian calls it "mentally soulless and not especially funny."

Ninja Assassin

Directed by James McTeigue; stars Rain, Ben Miles, Naomie Harris, Rick Yune, Yuki Imamura, Tamsen Iran, Shinobi Dub Kim

A skilled Iranian (Rain) abandons his clan and plots his revenge for a murdered friend. Phillip Ivan of Cinemadeal.com says: It's "so flagrant in its fakery that it almost begins to have my fun."

Last Supper No. 3

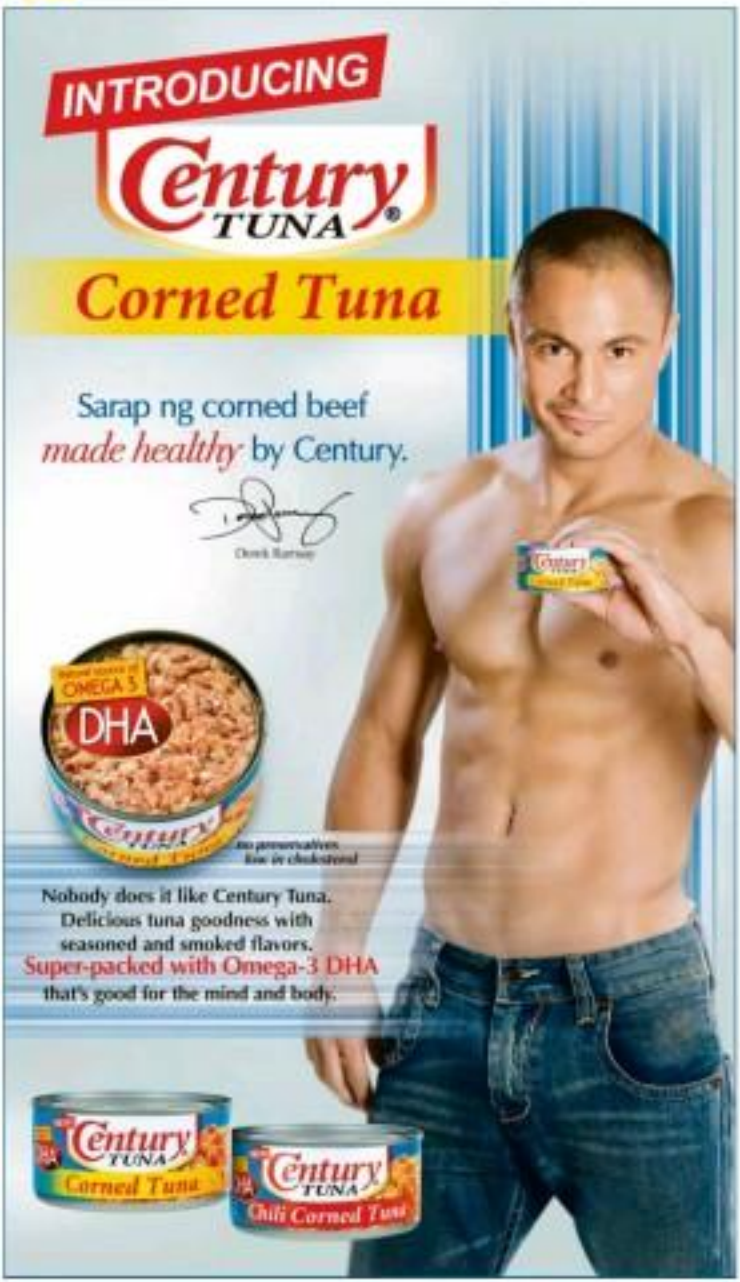
Directed by Veronica Velasco; Ruby Lacsa; stars Joey Paras, Jeff Lorenzo, Audrey Kasay, Beverly Salviejo, Debraille, Jill de Guzman

An advertising production designer (Paras) hosts a "Last Supper" set frame and gets lost in the local legal labyrinth. The Best Film winner in Cinemalaya '09 was shot by jarvis. For "the sheer panache of its storytelling and its treatment of comedy as an irresistible and artistic form," historian-overall-tor Jose Javier Reyes concurs: It's "rare ... an intelligent satire that doesn't depend on recognizable comedians." From Oct. 9 to 15 in UP Film Institute.

Click!

Estrada on CNN's 'Scene by Scene'

A VISIT ON THE SET OF FORMER PRESIdent Joseph Estrada's next comedy with Al A de los Alas will be featured on CNN's "Scene by Scene—Films of Asia Pacific" on Oct. 17 at 9:30 p.m. and Oct. 18 at 12:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Estrada plays a minibus driver trying to deal with his daughter's plans to marry her Filipino-American boyfriend in the movie titled "Ang Tanging Pamilya: A Misery Go Round."



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5 IN MY LIFE
6 G-FORCE (Digital 3D)
7 BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT
8 Inkaboo: BOY
9 G-FORCE
10 [illegible]

ERMITA

1 BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT
2 FAME
3 G-FORCE
4 PIPO
5 IN MY LIFE
6 THE UGLY TRUTH
7 SURROGATES

METRO EAST

1 FAME
2 G-FORCE
3 BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT
4 SORORITY ROW
5 IN MY LIFE
6 [illegible]
7 PANDORUM
8 SURROGATES

NOVALICHES

1 IN MY LIFE
2 SURROGATES
3 G-FORCE
4 [illegible]

PIONEER

1 G-FORCE
2 BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT
3 SURROGATES
4 FAME

STA. ROSA

1 G-FORCE
2 IN MY LIFE
3 [illegible]
4 THE FINAL DESTINATION

LIPA

1 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER
2 [illegible]
3 IN MY LIFE
4 G-FORCE

DASMARINAS

1 SURROGATES
2 IN MY LIFE
3 [illegible]
4 G-FORCE

IMUS

1 SURROGATES
2 IN MY LIFE
3 [illegible]
4 G-FORCE

STARMILLS

1 G-FORCE
2 THE MANAGEMENT
3 IN MY LIFE
4 [illegible]
5 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
6 SURROGATES

ANGELES

1 SURROGATES
2 IN MY LIFE
3 [illegible]
4 G-FORCE

TACLOBAN

1 LAND OF LOST
2 G-FORCE
3 THE GRUDGE 3

BACOLOD

1 G-FORCE
2 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER
3 THE FINAL DESTINATION
4 SURROGATES
5 [illegible]
6 IN MY LIFE

ILOILO

1 G-FORCE
2 THE GAMER
3 THE FINAL DESTINATION
4 SURROGATES
5 THE MANAGEMENT
6 MANDALAM

A 'Big Brother' first: Twins

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE REALITY PROGRAM "Pinoy Big Brother," which premiered on Oct. 5, introduced two firsts: that's never been seen in any of the "Big Brother" franchises in the world: two twins, plus two pairs of identical twins.

"This is a first," diverse and brainy host Jamel Lacuesta (Dyogi told reporters after the launch last week. "I had to go to the finished main office in Amsterdam last July for this. Madaye sin ke the production team. The technical requirement is stricter. We also had to change the configuration of the house."

Endemol, the television production company based in The Netherlands, owns the "Big Brother" franchise. It also produces the popular shows "Star Factor," "Deal or No Deal" and "Wipeout."

The new features in this PBB season may now be duplicated in other "Big Brother" shows, said Dyogi. "That's what's good about the franchise. When I talk with Endemol consultants like Anushka Rahu, I'm also given suggestions as to what would work for the Philippine officials and what wouldn't."

The identities of the 13 new "real-doms" were introduced on Sunday night's "Big Reveal," described as the sassy vamp from Cebu; Tom, the romantic stud from Samar; Melissa, the Judy Ann-ish beauty from Samar; Bebs, the sleepaholic fashion from Batangas; Paul John, the magazine prince from Cebu; Jason, the boy-next-door from Mindoro; Jay, the underground hottie from Japan; Carol, the conservative pharmacist from Manila; Meriel, the struggling mom from Davao; and Yhel, the young widow from Pampanga.

The two pairs of identical twins are JP (the jeanette dad from Quezon City) and JM (the delightful dad from Quezon City) on one hand and, on the other, Nel (the basket baller from Rizal) and Kenny (the jolen jock from Rizal), the three first challenge, the twins were forbidden to tell the other housemates of the existence of a second house and their twin brothers.

"It's a good mix," said Dyogi of the 12 housemates. "There will surely be at least one housemate that a viewer can relate to."

More than P10M

Dyogi revealed that the cost of renovating the PBB house for this season has exceeded P10 million, "but not beyond P50 million." He added that the house now carries a European motif for the interiors with colors inspired by the paintings of Van Gogh.

The director said the aim for this season is to make the show "more commercial than ever."

He explained, "I'm not too concerned with the ratings. What I want to achieve is what we call the avante-garde effect. We want the show to be talked about in schools and in the offices. This is also why we appreciate comments coming even from the show's detractors. Alin lamin kaya po kami kung 'di sa mga hate pinoy pareho. They're part of what's keeping the show afloat."

Not affected

Dyogi also said PBB is not affected by the news that the "Big Brother" program in Australia has folded up. There's also a report that the show in the United Kingdom will air on it's last series next year. "The show ran in Australia for 10 years, in the UK, 9 years. Malubha na rin yun. PBB is still young. Personally I don't expect to work on the show as its business unit head that long. Two or three years more, happy na ako," he declared.

"Pinoy Big Brother: Double Up" will air on "Umaganda Weekdaytime," hosted by Melason Rodriguez, Bianca Gonzalez and Toni Gonzaga, after "Until May Isang Buto" on ABS-CBN. Afternoons, the network will air "PBB Uber" after "Maria de Jesus."

Weekly highlights inside the PBB house will be telecast on "PBB Updated Primetime" weekdays and Sundays at 6 p.m. on Studio 23.

E-mail me at philippine@yahoo.com.ph

Greek film fest honors RP cinema

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ATHENS, GREECE (SOUTH KOREA) and Vladivostok (Russia), the 50th Thessaloniki International Film Festival is also honoring the Philippines in a special retrospective.

According to its website, the "Independence Days" section of the Greek fest, which runs Nov. 13-22, is "paying tribute to Philippine cinema of the 21st century."

Thirteen Filipino films are included in the section, which presents "outstanding developments in its auteurs, bulwarks, [and] classic films of all over the world." They are Adolfo Alix Jr.'s "Adela"; Jeps Delos Reyes' "Engkwentro"; Gerald Arthur Sanchez's "Sabel-sud"; Raya Martin's "Independencia" and "A Song for Indio Nacional"; Brillante Mendoza's "Tirador," "Kinatay" and "Lola"; Ellen Ramos' "Melancholia"; Khavn de la Cruz's "The Masked Horse of an Engineer in Search of Mechanical Buddha"; Jim Libiran's "Tabo"; and John Torres' "Todo Todo Teros."

Director's triumph

The website noted that the country's "rise" in the international scene is "evident" in Mendoza's first director triumph in Cannes and Delos Reyes' back-to-back win [the Orizzonti prize and Luigi De Laurentiis award] in Venice—both this year.

The site noted that "Philippine cinema has a long history" and that today's directors are "descendants" of pioneers Manuel Conde, Lino Brocka and Ishmael Bernal.

Thessaloniki considered the current crop of RP filmmakers their "Indiegeneration and creative kick."

Filipino films, according to the site, "illustrate the country's various realities [with] fresh, sensory-full formal solutions ... radical to content and form."

Mendoza is lauded for his "harsh yet poignant and compassionate brand of social realism." One is absolutely hailed for his "concealment to realism."

It was also pointed out that veteran actress Anna Lisa, "a Philippine cinema icon since the 1940s," top-bills two films in the retro "Adela" and "Lola."

Sheikh, who also has three films in the list, is noted for depicting his countryman's "struggles for independence and identity."

The site describes Ike Jr. Cruz as a "pioneer" in the digital cinematography, while Torres, Libiran and Sheikhee are praised for "depicting their country in a candid, outspoken manner."

Three filmmakers, the site related, "seek to make statements of form."

Curated by film critic Lefteris Adamidis, the Independent Days section will feature a round-table discussion as well.

Hunk has a new, uh, dance partner

CANTIKE Rojas

By the Entertainment Staff

POPULAR HUNK HAS reportedly broken up with Lady Love—though they never confirmed nor denied the relationship because of its rather scandalous start.

LL is said to have stolen PH from his original girlfriend. Seems LL got her comeuppance because PH purportedly junked her for another woman—a foxy Dancer on a reality-show.

Maybe PH just wants a new dance partner. So what will happen to LL and PH's joint projects?

Secret weapon

How did Controversial Celebrity acquire his new-found power in the industry?

According to a source, CC provides indispensable services for Rich Bastard. He acts as front for RB's hidden wealth and serves as protector, too, supplying RB with terrible women.

'Separados' anonymous

More separated celebrities formed a support group?

Controversial Personality, recently separated from Model Wife, was spotted shopping in an upscale mall with Former Starlet, who's rumored from her Neo-Showbiz Husband.

Eli is managed by a Sosa dalosa Celebrity notorious for seeking "competition" for CP and other powerful men.

Professional matchmaker?

Casting-ouch

Acclaimed Director is always going be about auditioning Young Hunks for upcoming projects.

MO makes sure to get the TEE' cell phone numbers and keeps in touch with the boys.

Some of the 03s have complained that AD's persistence borders on harassment.

RUSHES

AIAI Bernal and Ajay Sarmina

And yes, AD volunteers to "rehearse" love scenes with the neophyte stud.

Whatever floats AD's boat.

Incorrigible crusher

Alexis Tumbler has gained a nasty rep as gate-crasher to in-dustry events.

Friends can only roll their eyes because they know MJ attends those parties not to show support, but for the free grub.

Worse, BB isn't shy about stealing seats from other guests, according to a snub.

Top of the talk shows

Not those who missed last weekend's galadraw on TV. (And why we are stirred, if we are moved.)

• Vic Sotto on picking Cristine Reyes for the lead role in an upcoming TV bio on his upcoming movie:

"Happy sa Amyan. Nung Friday niya pirmay nupot, parang misteryoso, tahimik lang. Kay mga susunod na araw, gusto ko sa Wednesday nag-dress-rehe. Pag nanyaman ka, medyo nagbibitaw na. Meron silang kinatsismisan ah. At nung sina Sunday nagkita-kita sila." (We're stuck at "Hindi la-ang nag-dress-rehe.")

• Vic on working with Cristine after his "Dadjo" matchup:

"Mas mas okay, surprisingly ... Parang walang nangyari."

• Mark Herras on entering Tess Asistio:

"Gusto ko na-ning pagkatanto ko kay yung mga dapat... bago dumating ... si Ejmon.

YMA ASISTIO

Ayokong sayangin yung dapuwan ko nanyarahan ito with her family."

• Isabel Oli, asked if she talked to ex-boyfriend Dado Conde during a recent event.

"Walang chance para mag-usap." (Conjure refuge when it's over.)

• Isa Calzado, asked if she really felt bad about Alyas Akeniou and Kris Bernal upstaging her at the local premiere of her Hollywood film:

"I still take a lot more than that to join me off." (Love this girl.)

• Dahl Bela on Hayden Kho:

"Alam ko Hayden is really not violent against women. Gentle un tao yan." (Nakaw-hai many forms, a lot of them gentle-ong darling.)

• Dahl, asked if she and Hayden are together again:

"I mean ee make it clear that ... we're not together again. We're really friends." (Okay.)

With Gerry Pinon

(Gerald, The Buzz)